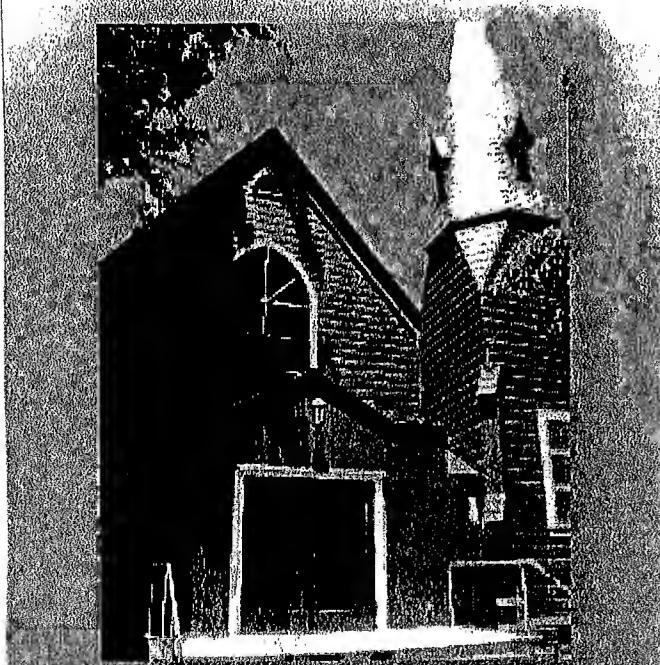


## Church of One Tree

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The historic charm of the Church of One Tree is the perfect location for weddings, anniversaries, private parties and events. This former Baptist church was built in 1873 from just one Guerneville grown redwood tree.



Located in beautiful Juilliard Park  
492 Sonoma Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA

Rental Fees

\$110/hr—Non-Profit Organizations

\$125/hr—Private Residents

\$144/hr—Commercial Organizations  
(4 hour minimum rental)

# Robert L. Ripley



Born in Santa Rosa on Christmas Day, 1893, Robert Leroy Ripley became the world's most famous cartoonist, with his daily 'Believe It or Not' feature read by more than 80 million people in newspapers of 38 nations around the world.

While still a Santa Rosa High School student, Ripley sold his first cartoon to Life magazine for \$8. A generation later in 1937, Charles Schulz, who now produces his famed 'Peanus' strip in Santa Rosa, sold his first cartoon to Ripley for \$8.

Ripley began his newspaper career as a sports cartoonist. His first 'Believe It or Not' cartoon appeared in 1918, and for the next 30 years he didn't miss a day producing the popular feature. Called by the Duke of Windsor 'the modern Marco Polo,' Ripley traveled through 198 countries during his lifetime, searching out the bizarre facts that constantly amazed readers of 'Believe It or Not.'

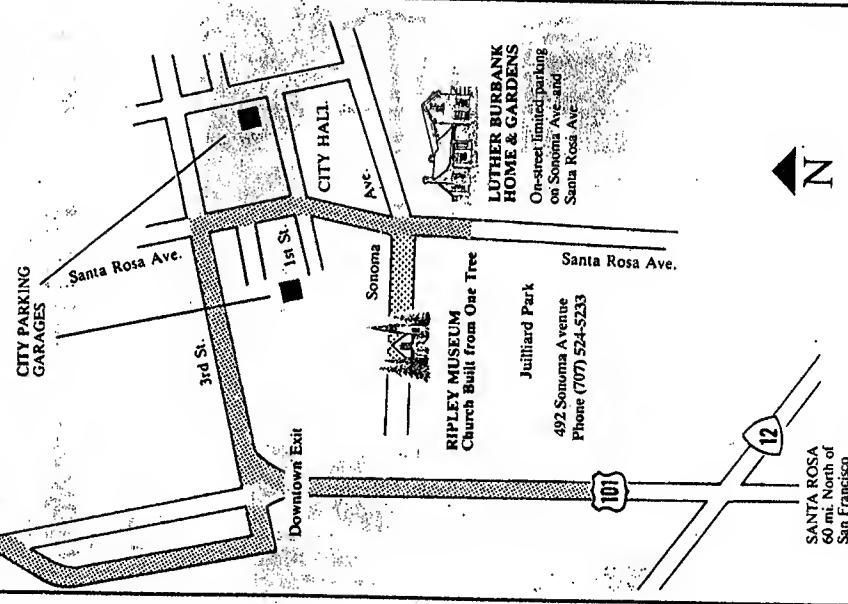
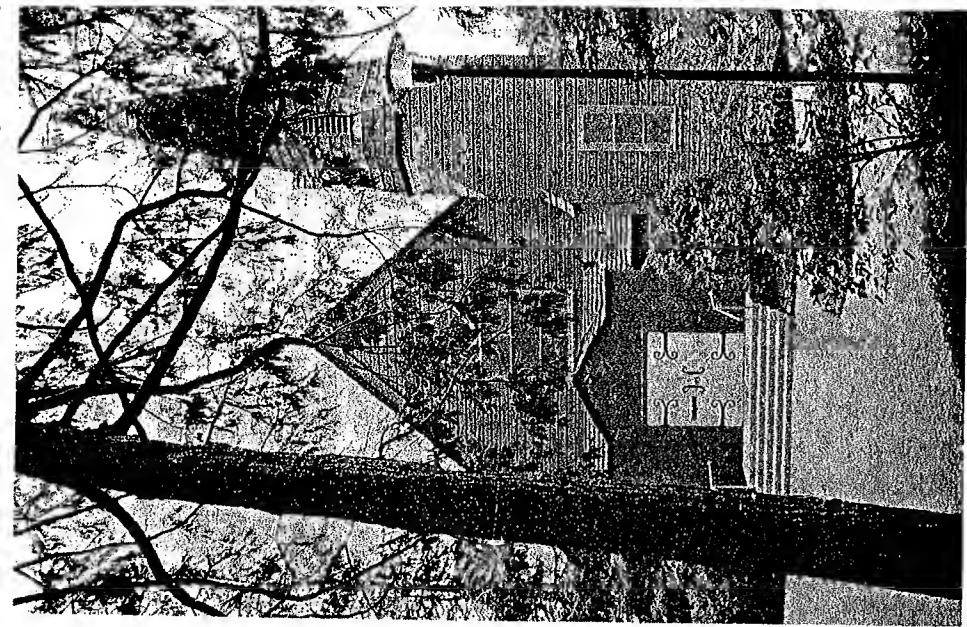
Ripley was a true celebrity, associating with world leaders and the greatest names in sports and entertainment. A lifelong bachelor, he filled his home at Mamaroneck, New York, with priceless Oriental art, along with a vast collection of oddities gathered in his world travels. One of his favorite possessions was the front door from his childhood home, which he bought from the family who then owned the house during one of his trips to Santa Rosa.

He was a broadcast pioneer, with the airing of his network radio show from mid-ocean in 1931, from Australia in 1932, and from Buenos Aires in 1933. The next year he broadcast simultaneously to every nation on the globe, assisted by a corps of translators.

Although Ripley died in 1949, and is buried in Santa Rosa Memorial Park, 'Believe It or Not' continues today as a popular cartoon in newspapers worldwide.

# Believe It or Not!

## Ripley's MEMORIAL MUSEUM IN THE HISTORIC CHURCH BUILT FROM ONE TREE!



The Robert L. Ripley Memorial Museum may be reached by walking through Juilliard Park, which fronts on Santa Rosa Avenue at Sonoma Avenue immediately south of downtown Santa Rosa. The museum also may be reached from Sonoma Avenue.

Published March 1993

Printed on recycled paper

CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

492 Sonoma Avenue  
Santa Rosa, California  
Phone (707) 524-5233

# The Ripley Museum in the Church Built from One Tree

Made famous in a Ripley cartoon, the Church Built from One Tree now houses the Robert L. Ripley Memorial Museum. Constructed in 1873 in what is now downtown Santa Rosa, the church was moved to its present site in Juilliard Park in 1957.

A single redwood tree from Guerneville on the Russian River yielded all of the lumber required to build the church. The giant tree, over 275 feet high and 18 feet in diameter, provided 78,000 board feet of lumber.

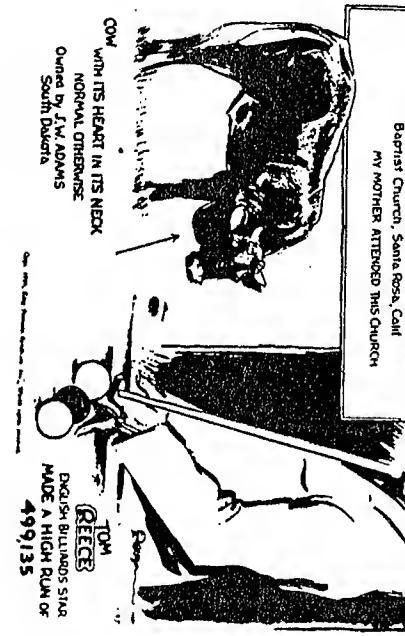
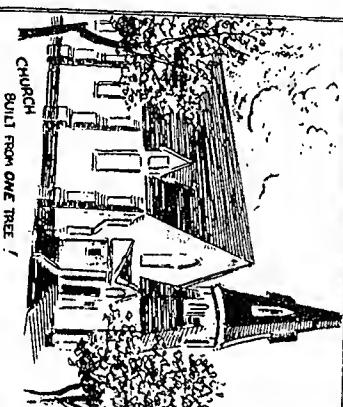
The museum, founded in 1970 by civic-minded Santa Rosa citizens and now operated by the city, contains an array of Ripley memorabilia from around the world. Many of the artifacts were contributed by Ripley's nephews, Robert and Douglas Ripley, and their mother, Ethel. Other items were made available by Ripley International and the Believe It or Not Museum in San Francisco, a major attraction at Fisherman's Wharf.



(Left to right) Bandleader Vincent Lopez, Robert Ripley and Ed Sullivan, later a dominant figure in broadcasting himself, are shown during one of Ripley's network radio shows on NBC.

## Ripley's Believe It or Not!

**MARY BELLE BYRAM**  
THE NAME OF  
IS SPELLED THE SAME  
BACKWARD AND FORWARD  
Harrisburg, Pa.



**GREECE**  
EGYPT BULLENS SKA  
MADE A HIGH RUM OR  
499,135

In the museum you will see a full size, lifelike wax figure of Ripley, as well as a bust of the cartoonist sculpted by a blind man. There too are the slippers and Chinese robe that he habitually wore at home while he worked.

On display is the battered old suitcase, plastered with travel stickers, used by Ripley on his many journeys about the world . . . the safari helmet favored by the cartoonist for his adventures in exotic lands . . . his 1920 trophy for winning the handball championship at the Friars Club . . . original Ripley cartoons . . . photographs of Ripley with celebrities such as baseball greats Carl Hubbell and Lou Gehrig,

show business luminaries Shirley Temple, Will Rogers, Joe E. Brown and Milton Berle, columnist Walter Winchell and industrialist Henry Ford.

In addition to the wealth of material on display highlighting the colorful history of Santa Rosa and Sonoma County.

A third section is devoted to a pictorial history of the Church of One Tree, showing its construction more than a century ago, and detailing the building's move to its present location in Juilliard Park.

Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
March 1 - October 23      Wednesday - Sunday

New Prices:  
Adults \$1.50  
Youths (7-17) \$.75  
Senior Citizens \$.75  
Children 6 and under are admitted free  
Group rates are available

Handicapped (wheelchair) access at side entrance



Ripley, who began his career as a sports cartoonist and retained a lifelong interest in athletics, is flanked by New York greats Carl Hubbell (left) and Lou Gehrig.

The Church Of One Tree/ Ripley Memorial Museum  
Autumn Report



November 15, 1996

Today a special group of Heritage Tours marked the official end of the 1996 season. This year we had a total of 3095 visitors and an income of \$4566.07. The past few years compared as follows.

1996	\$4,584.83	3095 people
1995	\$4,877.25	3972 people
1994	\$4,910.62	3446 people
1993	\$5,389.00	4618 people
1992	\$5,390.22	4854 people
1991	\$5,882.88	5144 people (admission price raised to \$1.50)
1990	\$4449.20	5824 people
1989	\$3,866.53	3972 people
1988	@ \$2000.	2500 people

The statistics for October 1996 were as follows:

Adults 172 Youth 28 Groups (11) 132 Kids 13 Seniors 69 Total 412 people  
Total \$516.30

Admissions \$403.25  
Sales \$76.75  
Donations \$36.30

Promotion and fund raising will continue during the winter months at no charge to the City of Santa Rosa hopefully more deposits will be made. How about a Holiday Open House the same time as the Burbank Home & Gardens first weekend of December. S.F. Chronicle did advertise our museum monthly however the Press Democrat was not consistent this year in listing us.

The gutters need to be cleaned out soon. Please make out a work order for this procedure. The museum is closed unless a special Holiday Open House is approved. The Huell Howser Show has been delayed until after January 1, 1997.

The Ripley Board of Manager's Convention will be in Ocho Rios, Jamaica in February 1997. John Hacku will represent Santa Rosa at no charge to the city.

The Church Of One Tree/ Ripley Memorial Museum  
Monthly Report

To: Eric Jorgenson  
Recreation & Parks Dept.  
415 Steele Lane  
Santa Rosa, CA. 95403

October 7, 1996

The Church of One Tree will be featured next month on the Huell Howser "California Gold" program on Channel 22. The November showing will also include a Luther Burbank special. Howser's Program is featured in four states on public television.

The construction on Santa Rosa Avenue has begun interrupting the flow of traffic to Sonoma Avenue. There was also a "major" negative article in the Press Democrat about Juilliard Park. The activities of museum neighbors were drug and prostitution related. Problems of a severe nature began on September 6 & 7th and continued throughout the month. The police were called several times and they responded. About twenty people were involved. The incidents continued at night and people stayed away from the park and the museum. The "crack and meth-amphetamine apartment" was finally busted by the Santa Rosa police in the third week of the month. The landlord evicted the tenants and changed the locks. After the arrest another major fight broke out in front of the museum. Curator John Hacku called the police who responded immediately. Hopefully there will be a return to the peacefulness of years past in the neighborhood.

On Saturday October 12, 1996 the museum will co-sponsor a Child Safety-Day in the Mall. We will provide safety material and have a raffle item at the mall. We are doing this in conjunction with Kids One Inc. and Kiwanis.

The Press Democrat has not published any recent materials that the museum has sent for Q-magazine or Entertainment. We were listed on occasion during the summer months. Hopefully we can again be listed in the City's Guide for next Spring.

The Gardeners of America have requested a tour through the museum for November 2, 1996. We will accommodate them with no charge to the city of Santa Rosa. We also will open our doors to a travel group at 3p.m on November 15th. Fund raising efforts will continue this year throughout the winter at no charge to the city.

**The Church Of One Tree  
Robert L. Believe It Or Not! R  
Ripley Memorial Museum**

September 6, 1996

**August Report**

Huell Howser came and completed the segment for California Gold. It was nice to be included in this classic show. It will air in four states on KCET (locally KRCB from Rohnert Park) sometime in November. There is a slight chance that it will be on the air sooner.

I have contacted Post Newsweek Cable and they may run the Turner Broadcast of Bob Ripley if we can produce some sponsors. Valerie Hayes is the new contact person there. Stay tuned!

**Juilliard Park**

There seems to be an increase in the transient activity at Juilliard Park. There were more reports to me of overt prostitution and drug dealing. The police were called on these matters. Our railings were destroyed and the front area of the museum has been used as a toilet during the night.

Recreation and Parks has fixed the railings and we are back in business!

**Did Not Understand the Concept**

On August 7, 1996 two elderly people entered the museum from the open West side door. Curator John Hacku

explained that it cost \$1.50 for both of them. They replied that they "just wanted to look around." Since John was in the middle of a historical explanation of the museum to other tourists inside the couple asked how long was the tour? John replied "about 15 or twenty minutes".

They declined and said they "just wanted to look around". John again repeated that it was a \$1.50. The man and the woman continued to be in the museum. Neither of them made a motion to pay. John then stated that "I must ask you to leave." The man and woman left. They walked to the front of the building on the Juilliard park side and left through the park.

An appropriate sign is displayed on the front door and now we will have a sign on the back door as well. The hot August days need ventilation. This was obviously a mis-understanding.

**Arts In The Park**

This was simply a fabulous day and everyone involved seemed to really enjoy themselves. It was hard work and well worth it. We had a record day of \$171 at the museum. We hope to have more of these events at Juilliard Park.

**The Lotus & Water Hyacinth  
Juilliard Park**

Page 2

Church of One Tree

The Statistics for September 1996 are as follows:

Adults	Kids	Seniors	Youth	Groups	Total
176	15	79	67	3- 36 people	363 people

Admissions \$378.50

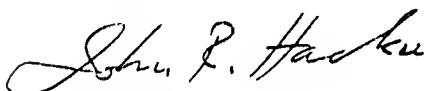
Sales 57.75

Donations 63.35

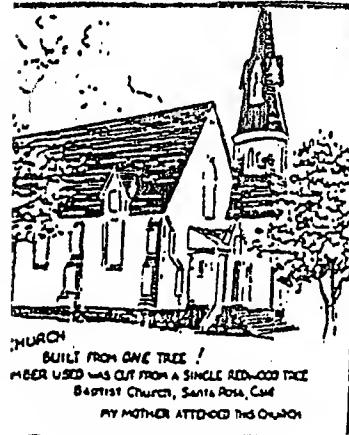
Total \$ 499.60

Next year the Ripley International Entertainment Inc. will conduct a search for the Oddest Laugh in the world contest. We will participate in this contest also at a local level using Church of One Tree. This promotion was highly successful in Texas and Florida.

Sincerely,



John R. Hacku  
Curator



August 4, 1996

*Santa Rosa*

To: Eric Jorgeson:

The KCET television show California Gold filmed one episode at the Church of One Tree. The show is set for release in December with host Huel Howser.

The KFTY film crew is due on Monday afternoon to film the special Presidential Believe It Or Not's plus the Presidential plates on exhibit. This should air this week.

The August event Arts in The Park at Juilliard should bring more people to the museum. Last year it was a very successful event. There will be a Kids Korner set up in front of the museum.

The statistical information for June:

Adults	282	Admissions	\$625.00
Youth	95	Sales	113.50
Seniors	134	Donations	58.25
12 Groups	144		
Child	39	Total	\$786.75
Total 694 people			

July Statistics are as follows:

Adults	257	Admissions	\$576.75
Youth	101	Sales	65.75
Seniors	104	Donations	82.73
2 Groups	24		
Child	22	Total	725.23
Total 618 people			

Sincerely,

*John*

John R. Hacku  
Curator

The Men's Garden Club borrowed the lotus for the Fair in exchange for more future lotus plants and to help with the clean-up of the pond's water hyacinths!

Page 2

Channel 50 in Santa Rosa came and filmed a segment on our Presidential Plate Dispaly. We were on the news twice. The Press Democrat also listed us in the Community Life section of the paper on September 1, 1996. The display is a welcome addition to our Ripley Displays.

#### Ripley Web Site

We have gone into cyberspace. Check us out on the internet. Our site is [www.SFNET.NET//KP/Ripley](http://www.SFNET.NET//KP/Ripley) Thanks to the efforts of Curator John Hacku we are now on the super highway. People have come into the museum because they found us on the internet. No cost to the city of Santa Rosal

#### Santa Rosa Map

We will be on the map again next year. The Chamber of Commerce will have a super colorful map next year and we will be on it. Thanks to the efforts of Curator John Hacku the museum will be on the Santa Rosa map again at no cost to the city of Santa Rosa.

#### August Statistics

<b>Adults</b>	<b>273</b>
<b>Youth</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>Seniors</b>	<b>117</b>
<b>Children</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>2 Groups</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>572</b>
<b>Admissions</b>	<b>\$610.00</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>70.00</b>
<b>Donations</b>	<b>43.89</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$723.89</b>

## The Church Of One Tree Ripley Memorial Museum July 9, 1996

The museum had a total of ~~609~~ people this month to bring in \$786 and change. The Anniversary Day Celebration at Villa Pompei and the Hot Rod Event helped. There are future events planned.

The July Presidential "Believe It Or Not! Exhibit is set to open before the Presidential Conventions this year. July 20 will be the official opening on a display dedicated to Presidents who made Ripley's Column and the Believe It Or Not Cartoon next to a Presidential Item or Picture. Alma Molinari Kemls donated Presidential Service Plates to our Museum which inspired this display. Included in the donation were:

King Faisal Dinner Service (six plates)  
Franklin Roosevelt Dinner service (8)  
USS Williamsburg Plate  
Cuban Palace Plate  
US Embassy Presidential Seal  
President Truman Green & Gold Service  
Gov. Kennon of Louisiana 24k Gold Plate

All of the plates are 24k gold plate and will be next to a connected Believe It Or Not! pertaining to the topic.

The Laura Bull Achievement made Tuesday's Press Democrat. The Native Sons of The Golden West Award for her speech on Ripley in the amount of \$1,600 was quite an accomplishment.

KCET television from Los Angeles contacted the museum and will film a sequence here in Santa Rosa on July 24, 1996. The Huel Howser Public Television Program "California Gold" will interview Curator John Hacku about the Church of One Tree and Robert Ripley.

The August 18, 1996 Jazz & Classical Music Event looks like it will be a big hit. Many people are expected and the Church of One Tree will help sponsor a Kids Safety Festival to coincide with this event. Kids One, the local safety event organization, will provide safety materials to moms, dads, and kids.

The new kids korner in the Ripley Museum is a big hit. Kids get to color, read, or draw in an area set aside just for them. Even young adults are spotted lying on the children's mat drawing and making a mini-trip to childhood. More items for the corner are coming. one mother sugested to fence it in so young toddlers would stay put while they enjoy the museum. Her suggestion will be considered for another area in the future.

Information of the sales, donations and visitors were left at the museum so will be included in an adendum this week!  
Sincerely,  
John Hacku  
Curator

The Church Of One Tree/ Ripley Memorial Museum  
25th Anniversary Cellebration  
June 1996 Report

June 10, 1996

The Church Of One Tree is 123 years old but the Ripley 'Believe It Or Not!' museum which is inside is 25 years young. The items from Bob Ripley and the displays on the Church officially became a museum on June 06, 1971 thanks to many different organizations. At Villa Pompei overlooking the luscious Sonoma Valley a great time was had by the Kiwanis Clubs on June 6th. In 1957 during the move and 1971 during the opening they played an integral part in this museum. This is also the anniversary of D-Day. One of the major passwords on that day in 1944 was "Believe It Or Not!" at Operation Overlord. Bob Ripley was one of the major fund raisers for the War Bonds Effort in World War II. There will be on-going celebrations at Church of One Tree all year. The Press Democrat and KZST plus the Hot Rod Show at Juilliard Park all contributed to a fantastic weekend at the museum. Over \$80 on Saturday and over \$90 on Sunday came from guest to the celebration. More on that at the next report.

Laura Bull won the speaking contest in Palm Springs with her dissertation on Robert Ripley. This Native Sons of the Golden West is an annual event. She won a trophy and \$1,600. She is a student at El Molino High School and will be a senior next year. Information has been sent to the Press Democrat.

The statistics for May are as follows:

Adults: 204	Sales	\$92
Youth: 47	Donations	\$52.21
Senior: 89	Admissions	\$502.00
Child: 24		
11 Groups: 132		
Total 496	Total	\$646.21*

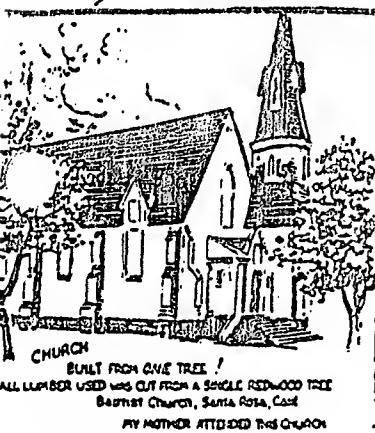
\*Addition error on May 18th of \$10 put figures for the month of May off by \$10  
Error was corrected money-wise on May 18th & 19th in the form of extra  
donations.



CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*  
 Monthly Report

492 Sonoma Avenue  
 Santa Rosa, California  
 U.S.A. 95401-6319  
 (707) 524-5233

25th Anniversary



CHURCH  
 BUILT FROM ONE TREE!  
 ALL LUMBER USED WAS CUT FROM A SINGLE REDWOOD TREE  
 BAPTIST CHURCH, SANTA ROSA, CALIF.  
 MY MOTHER ATTENDED THIS CHURCH

May 5, 1996

The Church of One Tree/ Robert L. Believe It Or Not!® Ripley Memorial Museum will celebrate it's 25th Anniversary on June 6, 1996. There will be a special luncheon at the Villa Pompei at 5800 River Road in Santa Rosa. Special Invitations will be in the mail soon. Please call 838-8698 for your R.S.V.P. The price of admission will be \$15. Other events will take place throughout the year. On June 13th at Los Robles Lodge presentations will be given to three of the founding fathers of the museum! Art Volkerts, Ben Cummings, and Al Mansoor will be special guests at a \$10 dinner celebrating this event. There will be a special donation box set up for the Church of One tree.

The month of April statistics are as follows:

Admissions:	\$538
Donations:	\$ 55.85
Sales	\$109.00

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Total	\$686.85
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Adults	239
Youth	72
Seniors	99
5 Groups	60
Under 7	33

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Total	303 people
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Sincerely,

*John*  
 John R. Hacku  
 Curator

P.S. The Los Robles Lodge Presentations will be at 12:15 p.m. at the Kiwanis Luncheon. It was the Santa Rosa Kiwanis Club that helped 25 years ago!

# Ripley

*Continued from Page D1*  
of which brought him an early death in 1948 at age 55.

While this is essentially a documentary of the man's life -- filled with historical film footage and facts -- the producers for some reason decided to dramatize it with a meeting between a wide-eyed schoolboy and a back-from-the-grave Ripley. The boy (Jason Marsden) is working on a school project at Ripley's grave when the ghost (Richard Portnow) appears, a natty vision in spats who gives a gosh-and-golly narration of his own life and death.

Hacku said the show "is very accurate," and it gives an extensive look at Ripley's early life in Santa Rosa.

A large omission, however, is that the show fails to mention the controversy over Ripley's date of birth. It states matter-of-factly that he was born on Christmas Day, 1893 -- 100 years ago. But no definitive record exists. His mother claimed his birthday was in 1890. His tombstone -- at least the real one in Santa Rosa -- has 1890. His passport, which Hacku has displayed at the Santa Rosa museum, says Feb. 25, 1892.

"He loved the dispute -- thought it was great," Hacku said. "He'd just tell people, 'I have no memory of that day.' He thought it added to his mystery."

A poor student, Ripley doodled



*Believe it: This is the real Robert Ripley.*

his way through school and was cartooning for a San Francisco paper while still in his teens. He moved to New York in 1913, and penned his first "Believe It or Not" cartoon in 1918. The response was immediate.

Within 10 years, Ripley was making \$500,000 a year working for William Randolph Hearst. His cartoons were running in papers around the world, and Ripley him-

self had become a world traveler in search of oddities to feature in his work.

Hacku said the man had a huge ego, and he fueled it with constant self-promotion. In his heyday he received a million letters a year. He bought an "island mansion" on Long Island and packed it with millions of dollars worth of strange art and artifacts. He sought controversy, challenging icons like Lindberg's flight and the National Anthem.

Ripley's personal life was very public -- part of his effort to boost his persona.

"He was the oddest person in the country," said Hacku. "He made living being odd."

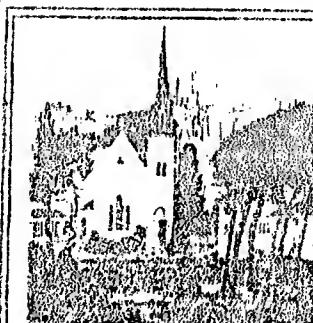
But the fast lane took its toll. See in his short run of live television shows in the late 1940s, the shy boy from Santa Rosa is fat, slow and sometimes confused. After a show about the origin of the funeral "Taps," he collapsed on the set and died a short time later.

Believe it or not.

The WTBS show includes plenty of Ripley's oddities. But the strangest, and most interesting, is Ripley himself.

"He was the most popular person in America for a time," Hacku said. "He wanted a vacation, but he created a dynasty, and he couldn't get away from it."

WTBS is not available on Santa Rosa's Post-Newsweek Cable, but can be seen on Multivision, Century, Wander and Viacom/Petaluma cable systems. The Ripley Museum, in the "Church of One Tree" that Ripley helped make famous, is open from April through October in Santa Rosa's Buellard Park.



MENDOCINO  
CHRISTMAS  
FESTIVAL

CHRISTMA

That A

The Church of One Tree Robert L. "Believe It Or Not!" (B) Ripley Memorial Museum  
492 Sonoma Avenue  
Santa Rosa, California 95401  
(707)-524-5233

February 17, 1996

**B**elieve It Or Not! is a household word that began with Santa Rosa's own Bob Ripley who featured his Mom's church in his daily cartoon feature and made it world famous. This is a sample of some of the statistics and events that have transpired over the past six years at the museum. The best is yet to come: This packet and video short will give you a small glimpse into the enjoyable, informative, and upbeat museum.

When Ripley went to this old church as a boy he must have heard dozens of times "Believe It Or Not this Church is made from One Redwood Tree". In 1957 the building was moved to the **Juilliard Park** where it rests today. Twenty-five years ago on June 6, 1971(an anniversary to the day that Bob was buried in Santa Rosa in 1949) a small memorial to Ripley was opened inside the church after efforts to use the church as a public meeting place, a theater, a small concert hall, and finally a wedding chapel failed to prove successful from 1957-1971. It was featured on the Johnny Carson show with Crawford Brooks in 1973.

We were recently featured in **Smithsonian Magazine**, **Grit**, **101 Off -The-Wall Museums**, **Weird and Wonderful America**, **KZST radio** and other features. There are now more than 50 museums throughout the world that **Ripley Entertainment Incorporated** owns. They all had their beginnings from Bob's thirst for the truth, the interesting, and the unusual.. There is now available a **CD-Rom** featuring **Ripley's "The Riddle of Master Lu"** created by Sanctuary Woods. Soon a best of "Believe It Or Not!" will be released as a CD-Rom. The made for television movie "**The Incredible Life and Times of Robert Ripley "Believe It Or Not!"** airs on the "Superstation" **WTBS!** The Science Fiction station carries daily the "Believe it or Not!" series with Jack Palance one of which features the **Church Built From One Redwood Tree**. The museum in Santa Rosa is the only non-profit museum in the world that is affiliated with Bob Ripley. A hometown memorial to Santa Rosa, the church, and the early days in room 10 with Miss Francis O'Meara and Ripley's family in the early 1900's is currently displayed.

## Slice of Life



Win Murphy

### Believe it or not

My sister and I recently went to have lunch with our sister-in-law, Donna Schmale, and a friend of hers in Santa Rosa at the Flamingo. It was like a scene from a technicolor '40's movie — we four well-dressed women enjoying a ladies' luncheon in a luxurious poolside setting whilst stylish and expensive clothes were being modeled. I even wore a hat!

After lunch, Donna suggested we visit The Church Built From One Tree, which houses the Ripley's Believe It Or Not Museum. Santa Rosa never sounded so intriguing. Who could resist a church built from one tree? I figured it'd be teeny-tiny.

It isn't. This is a big gothic number, built in 1873 from a single redwood tree from Guerneville on the Russian River. The giant tree, over 275 feet high and 18 feet in diameter, provided 78,000 board feet of lumber, enough to build a good-sized church. This was one of Robert Ripley's Believe It or Not items, and it seems right that a museum to the memory of this unusual man be housed in a believe-it-or-not church in his native town of Santa Rosa.

Many of you will no doubt remember Ripley's Believe It or Not column, with its daily collection of oddball facts — plus the radio and TV series that ran for years. What I didn't know was that he was born in Santa Rosa in 1893 and while still a student of Santa Rosa High School, he sold his first cartoon to *Life* magazine for \$8. (A generation later, in 1937, Santa Rosan Charles Schultz, who does the "Peanuts" cartoon strip, sold his first cartoon to Robert Ripley for \$8 — believe it or not!) Truly, there are hidden surprises in Santa Rosa.

Ripley items are housed in glass cases and around the walls of the old church. There's a great stuffed two-headed calf (a don't miss!), what used to be the world's biggest rhino horn, a baby piglet with an extra-large head, and — my very own favorite — a fur-bearing trout (believe it or not!).

The Ripley Museum's curator, John Hacku, knows all there is to know about Robert Ripley. "He led an Indiana Jones sort of life," Hacku says, adding that Ripley used to be the world's

was that he was born in Santa Rosa in 1893 and while still a student of Santa Rosa High School, he sold his first cartoon to *Life* magazine for \$8. (A generation later, in 1937, Santa Rosan Charles Schultz, who does the "Peanuts" cartoon strip, sold his first cartoon to Robert Ripley for \$8 — believe it or not!) Truly, there are hidden surprises in Santa Rosa.

Ripley items are housed in glass cases and around the walls of the old church. There's a great stuffed two-headed calf (a don't miss!), what used to be the world's biggest rhino horn, a baby piglet with an extra-large head, and — my very own favorite — a fur-bearing trout (believe it or not!).

The Ripley Museum's curator, John Hacku, knows all there is to know about Robert Ripley. "He led an Indiana Jones sort of life," Hacku says, adding that Ripley used to be the world's most traveled man, visiting 198 countries in his lifetime — and this was well before jet travel. Ripley's pith helmet, looking travel-worn, is displayed in one of the glass cases, along with a lush-looking gold velvet Chinese robe, beautifully decorated, which he wore daily while writing and cartooning. There are also wonderful old black-and-white photos of Ripley with celebs of the 20's through 40's — Will Rogers, Frank Sinatra (lookin' real young and skinny), Shirley Temple (curls and all), Joe E. Brown and Milton Berle.

You can understand why the Duke of Windsor once called Robert Ripley "the modern Marco Polo" when you view the short video on some of Ripley's adventures — riding camels, traversing desert-like areas, seen with primitive-looking natives in distant jungles. He really was an Indiana Jones type, and this man went out and got the weird facts for his columns himself, bringing strange artifacts back to prove to the world — believe it or not — that there are a lot of exotic, unexplainable, and remarkable things out there. He collected a heck of a lot of them. According to Curator Hacku, there are 23 Ripley museums throughout the United States, so this unique man with a sense of adventure and the unusual left a huge collection of weirdo and fascinating stuff when he died of a heart attack at age 55 in 1949.

There are, of course, many of Ripley's original cartoons with Believe It or Not facts, which ran in 38 nations around the world and were read by more than 80 million people. And the museum has a wax figure of Ripley sitting at a desk plus a bust of him, done by a blind sculptor (believe it or not!) — an exact likeness.

If you dig the bizarre and are looking for a modest little spring outing, why not visit the Ripley Museum in the Church Built From One Tree, which is on the beautiful grounds of Julliard Park, at 492 Sonoma Avenue, Santa Rosa, open Wednesday through Sunday, 11-4. (The Luther Burbank Museum and Memorial Gardens are close by — I'm doing them next time.)

Believe it or not, I think you'll enjoy learning more about Robert L. Ripley. I did.

# A Church Made Famous by A Famous Man

by Geets Vicent

Its history is as fascinating as its present use, though for a time Santa Rosa's "Church Built From One Tree" seemed doomed to oblivion. A rummage sale started it on the road to salvation.

Now what is now the Sonoma County resort town of Guerneville, but was a lumber center known as "Stumptown" in 1873, loggers felled a single 275 foot redwood tree that boasted an 18 foot diameter. This giant yielded 78,000 board feet of lumber which became the First Baptist Church of Santa Rosa at Ross and "B" Streets. By 1902, beautiful opalescent stained glass windows, which can be seen to this day, graced the fine edifice.

But over the years fire and neglect eventually took their toll, until by 1957, the building's destruction seemed inevitable. Fortunately, historically-minded citizens came to the rescue. To save the church, they sponsored a huge rummage sale that some 5,000 people attended. They raised \$3,300, enough to finance the task of moving the building to its present location at 492 Sonoma Avenue, a job that took 11 hours to complete.

Though he wasn't present that day, a driving force behind all this attention was a man who had been baptized in the church and whose carpenters father had helped build it. He is also the reason why thousands of visitors a year sign the guest book in what, since 1970, has become a famous landmark and tourist attraction.

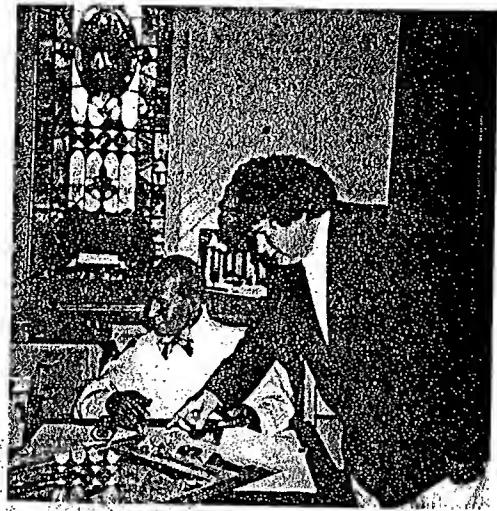
The Robert L. Ripley Museum pays tribute to the famed cartoonist who was born in Santa Rosa, Christmas Day, 1893, and who, despite travels to 198 countries, is also buried here. He made the phrase "Believe

It Or Not," a household word while his drawings which accompanied the oddities he unearthed brought him incredible fame and money. Popular to this day, the syndicated feature still runs in many newspapers, now drawn by artist Don Wimber. Thanks to sustained public interest and Jim Pattison Industries, Ltd., there are now—world-wide—25 Ripley museums (in addition to the local one.) All attract a constant stream of visitors.

John Hacku is in charge of the Santa Rosa "Church Built From One Tree" Museum whose front door faces 9-acre Juilliard Park. For nine years he served as a docent for another famed landmark, the Luther Burbank Home and Gardens located just across the street from the park on Santa Rosa Avenue. So this curator is extremely well versed in local history and knows the kind of information tourists, as well as intrigued local visitors, are bound to appreciate.

He is a walking encyclopædia when it comes to relating facts about the Church, and especially about Ripley. Hacku feels a definite kinship when he reports, "It was on August 14, 1947 that Ripley unsuccessfully tried to buy the "Church Built From One Tree" and that's the date on which I was born."

Though a native of Connecticut who holds a masters degree in sociology, he and his wife, Mary Ann, have been Santa Rosa residents since 1972. Hacku had a career as a school teacher, but the lure of travel resulted in his serving as an international tour guide. He hopes to combine that interest with his museum duties, since the Church is closed during the winter months.



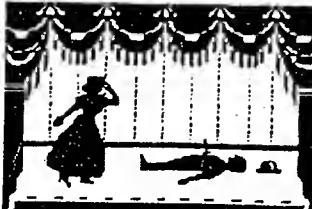
Curator John Hacku tells Santa Rosa visitors Robert and Lorie Marsh about the artist's friendship with Frances O'Meara, the school teacher whose portrait Ripley cherished, even though he was a high-school drop-out.

But now, until the end of October, Hacku will be guiding the curious around the Museum where they can marvel at the life-like wax figure of Ripley and browse by or study all the memorabilia attractively housed in the one-time church setting. Hacku shows movie clips and videos which audiences find fascinating. Ripley is seen in exotic places living up to the name given him by the Duke of Windsor and which became the title of Bob Considine's 1961 biography, *The Modern Marco Polo*.

Hacku, who has facts and figures galore at the tip of his tongue, enjoys telling how Ripley earned \$8 for his first sale, as did the next cartoonist who has brought fame to Santa Rosa. Says the curator, "At the age of 12, Charles Schulz sold his first effort to Ripley for the sum of \$8, believe it or not!" Visitors can see a reproduction of Ripley's February 22, 1937, feature. It shows a dog and a note that says "drawn by Sparky" along with this description: "A hunting dog that eats pins, tacks, screws, and razor blades, owned by C. Schulz, St. Paul, Minn." (But the drawn animal bears no resemblance to today's Snoopy.)

Statistics are staggering when it comes to detailing Ripley's remarkable career which, many claim, made him more of an oddity than any of the unique or unusual facts he reported right up to his death, May 26, 1949. He challenged one and all with the unbelievable — the truths he discovered which proved to be so much stranger than any fiction. As Hacku explains, "Robert Ripley discovered the wonders of the world long before tourists did, and many of them no longer even exist."

## ASHLAND SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL



October 5, thru October 8, 1993  
round-trip Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation  
Days - 3 Nights at ASHLAND HILLS INN  
Plays at OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL  
Shakespeare's "RICHARD III"  
Feydeau's "A FLEA IN HER EAR"  
Cornille's "THE ILLUSION"  
Wilson's "JOE TURNER'S COME AND GONE"  
Backstage Tour of Oregon Festival Theaters  
Three Breakfasts Included - Fully Escorted  
Benefit for the Sebastopol Center For the Arts  
59.00 Per Person-Double Occupancy  
49.00 Per Person-Single Occupancy

INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS  
SEASTOPOL CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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SONOMA VALLEY BAGEL CO.

2310 Mendocino Ave. Santa Rosa  
(Between Safeway & Yardbirds)

Ripley's Memorial Museum is open 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday from March 1 until October 23. Admission is: \$1.50 adults; 75 cents for seniors and 7-17 youths; children under six admitted free. and group rates are

# GAYE LeBARON'S NOTEBOOK



## Santa Rosa's Robert Ripley-- How old IS he?

**T**his is the 100th anniversary year of the birth of one of Santa Rosa's most famous sons. Believe it or don't!

That's no joke. It truly is a matter of choice, because the year of cartoonist Robert Ripley's birth has long been a matter of confusion and conjecture. We know he was born on Christmas Day. We know he was born in Santa Rosa, in a house at 1112 Glenn Street where the family lived before they moved to their longtime home at 1117 Orchard St. There was no birth certificate recorded, probably destroyed with the courthouse in the '06 earthquake.

His gravestone in the Rural Cemetery says 1890. The U.S. Census indicates 1890. The encyclopedias and the company that owns the rights to Ripley's trademark and material, which continue to be hot property 44 years after his death, say, emphatically, 1893. The company, Ripley's Entertainment, is so certain of the date that it is celebrating the Ripley centennial year. But the firm can hedge a bit, since 1993 is also — for certain — the 75th anniversary of the day the first "Believe It Or Not!" cartoon appeared in the New York *Globe*.

The anniversaries will be celebrated with a two-hour TV special on the Turner Network on Thanksgiving Day, an animated children's series, Jack Palance's *Believe It or Not!* series on USA Network's SciFi Channel, a daily syndicated show and special events at the 21 Ripley museums around the world.

To say that the fame of this once-gangly kid from Santa Rosa, who liked drawing better than studying (and baseball better than drawing), has endured is an understatement. Bob Masterson, president of Ripley's *Believe It Or Not*, says the cartoon, licensed to United Features, appears in 196 publications worldwide. There is a larger syndication in India, South America and Mexico than in the U.S., Masterson says.

THE RIPLEY STORY is a Santa Rosa favorite. Robert Leroy, known as Roy or Rip to his classmates at Lewis School and Santa Rosa High, wasn't much of a student. Baseball was his passion. Drawing was what he did to pass the time in classes.

His classmates at Lewis School would remember him "wearing a straw hat, knickerbockers and barefoot." His high school friend, Nell Griffith Wilson, who later became one of the area's leading poets, remembered him when he came to the school as a freshman in 1904 — "a shy, rather awkward boy . . . dressed in a brown suit with knee pants."

His English teacher, the legendary Frances O'Meara, was the one who saw potential in her day-dreaming.



RIPLEY MUSEUM

*Santa Rosa High School's Miss O'Meara and her prize pupil, Robert Ripley, in 1932.*

of objects to answer the critics who called him "The World's Biggest Liar." The newsreels of him dining with cannibals and posing with pygmies became standard movie theater fare.

He married in 1919, to a "Follies girl" named Beatrice Roberts. They divorced in 1926 and he became the most eligible bachelor in New York City, the toast of cafe society. "B.I. or N." was now the most widely read feature in the world and Ripley had his own radio show on CBS.

NO ONE WAS PROUDER of him than his former teacher, Miss O'Meara. She had few of his drawings to show. Her precious illustrated poems he had left with her were destroyed in the fire that burned the old high school on Humboldt Street in 1921. Ripley gave her credit for his success, writing her letters from exotic ports, bringing her presents from his far-flung travels.

In 1932, returning from Asia by way of San Francisco, he came home to Santa Rosa. The town declared it Ripley Day and a crowd gathered to welcome him. On the stage at the new high school auditorium, he hugged Miss O'Meara and gave her a jade and gold necklace he had brought from China. Ripley the dutiful student had made her very proud.

His official duties done, Ripley the bon vivant and the men he had played baseball with as a boy got down to the business of celebrating his homecoming. They went to a roadhouse called The Tavern (it was still Prohibition, remember) at Santa Rosa's northern border and sat down to a "luncheon" that lasted well past supper time.

It was on this trip that he made an offer to go halves with the city to establish a museum in the First Baptist Church, a structure he had made world famous by drawing it in two of his cartoons as "The Church Built from One Redwood Tree" — which, in truth, it had been. His mother was a member of that Baptist congregation and his offer to buy the church was made in her memory. But the city was not quick to respond, nor were the Baptists. They continued to worship in the building at Ross and B streets for two decades.

of the poetry lesson with the boy, she put him to drawing illustrations of "The Iliad," "The Ancient Mariner" and "Idylls of the King." She encouraged him to draw for the school's literary magazine, The Porcupine.

Young Ripley had heavy responsibilities. In 1908, the start of his senior year, his carpenter father died. He took a part-time job after school, polishing tombstones at the Kinslow Marble Works and finally dropped out before graduation to seek full-time work. He carried his school drawings to San Francisco where the editor of the Bulletin hired him as an artist.



Ripley

By 1915, he had moved on to New York, drawing a sports feature for the *Globe*. Dec. 18, 1918, was a day all who labor under deadline can understand. Ripley sat staring at his blank paper, without inspiration for the daily effort. Finally, with the sports editor hollering for his drawing, Ripley scribbled across the top of the sheet "Champs and Chumps" and started sketching some of the unusual things in the sports news that had caught his

attention. When he had filled the space allotted there was a man who stayed underwater for 6½ minutes, there was a guy walking backward across the U.S. using a rear view mirror. Things like that.

He looked it over, crossed out "Champs and Chumps", and wrote "Believe It or Not!" across the top, handed it over and went across the street for a cup of coffee.

The next day, the cartoon appeared in the newspaper and drew such attention that the editor asked for another and finally for one a week, then two a week. People submitted their oddities. He became a collector of the bizarre and unusual. He was drawing a daily feature that was syndicated across the country. And he was famous.

HE WAS also rich. He was heralded at home in Santa Rosa as the first hometown boy to make a million dollars. He traveled all over the world — through the snows of Siberia, across the deserts of North Africa, along the dusty road to Peking and the spot the Chinese claimed was the precise center of the universe. He drew what he saw, bringing home a strange collection

"RIP" didn't come back to Santa Rosa again until the sad day in 1949 when his old friends, including the DeMeo brothers, Nick and Charlie, were sent by the city as an official delegation to meet the train in Oakland and escort the body of their boyhood friend back home for burial.

Ripley had died, at the age of 55 (or 58 depending on which birthday you believe), in New York City. He had suffered a heart attack while filming a television episode on, ironically, death rituals around the world. He is buried in Santa Rosa's Rural Cemetery. He may have written his own eulogy in a letter to his old friend Nell Wilson. Telling of his work and his travels, he wrote: "One day's work is never done and peace of mind I never have. Never become too ambitious or you will suffer always."

IN ITS 75th year, his cartoon can lay claim to being the longest-running feature in the world. And the title phrase has become a part of the English language.

He also is credited with helping to make "The Star Spangled Banner" the national anthem. The pressure he exerted on the Congress was negative in nature. In 1929, he published a "Believe It or Not!" saying that the U.S. was without an official anthem, since the Congress had refused to endorse "The Star Spangled Banner" when asked to in 1914.

Ripley had a "gotcha" in this informational cartoon. The tune of the anthem, he said, was a vulgar old English drinking song called "To Anacreon in Heaven." Such a state for a "dry" country in the midst of national Prohibition.

Citizens chose to ignore the ignominy of the tune's origins, but protested vehemently the lack of an official anthem. More than five million petitions were sent to Congress as a direct result of the cartoon and, on March 3, 1931, Congress capitulated and made

the song the official anthem.

Ripley often called upon readers to submit ideas. And, sometimes, even drawings for his daily feature. In 1937, a 12-year-old Minnesota boy who wanted to be a cartoonist sent a drawing of a dog that ate razor blades. Ripley printed it. It was the first published drawing of Charles M. "Sparky" Schulz. Their "paths" would cross again, figuratively speaking, when Schulz moved his studio from St. Paul to Sonoma County in the late 1950s. His "Peanuts" now holds the title Ripley's work once held — that of the most widely read feature in the world.

"BELIEVE IT or Not!" is now solely owned by Jimmy Pattison, a Vancouver businessman whose enterprises, from car leasing to electric signs to Ripley, number 46 in all. The headquarters of the Ripley company moved recently from Toronto to Orlando, Florida. Just last week they granted the interactive media rights to Ripley material — for CD-ROM and interactive cable — to Sanctuary Woods Multimedia Corp. of Vancouver.

An important part of the current Ripley empire is John Turner, an Englishman whose job it is to "be" Ripley. Turner travels the world, as the cartoonist did before him, collecting the oddities that keep the feature alive. Turner will be touring the Ripley museums in the United States next month and can be expected to visit Santa Rosa, where the old Baptist church was finally (in 1957) moved to Juilliard Park and turned into a Ripley Museum.

You can go there to speak to the remarkable wax figure of Rip, seated at his desk. You can view such wonders as a trout with fur. And the curator, John Hacku, can tell you far more than I have room to recount about the amazing adventures of the buck-toothed kid from Orchard Street who made Santa Rosa so proud.

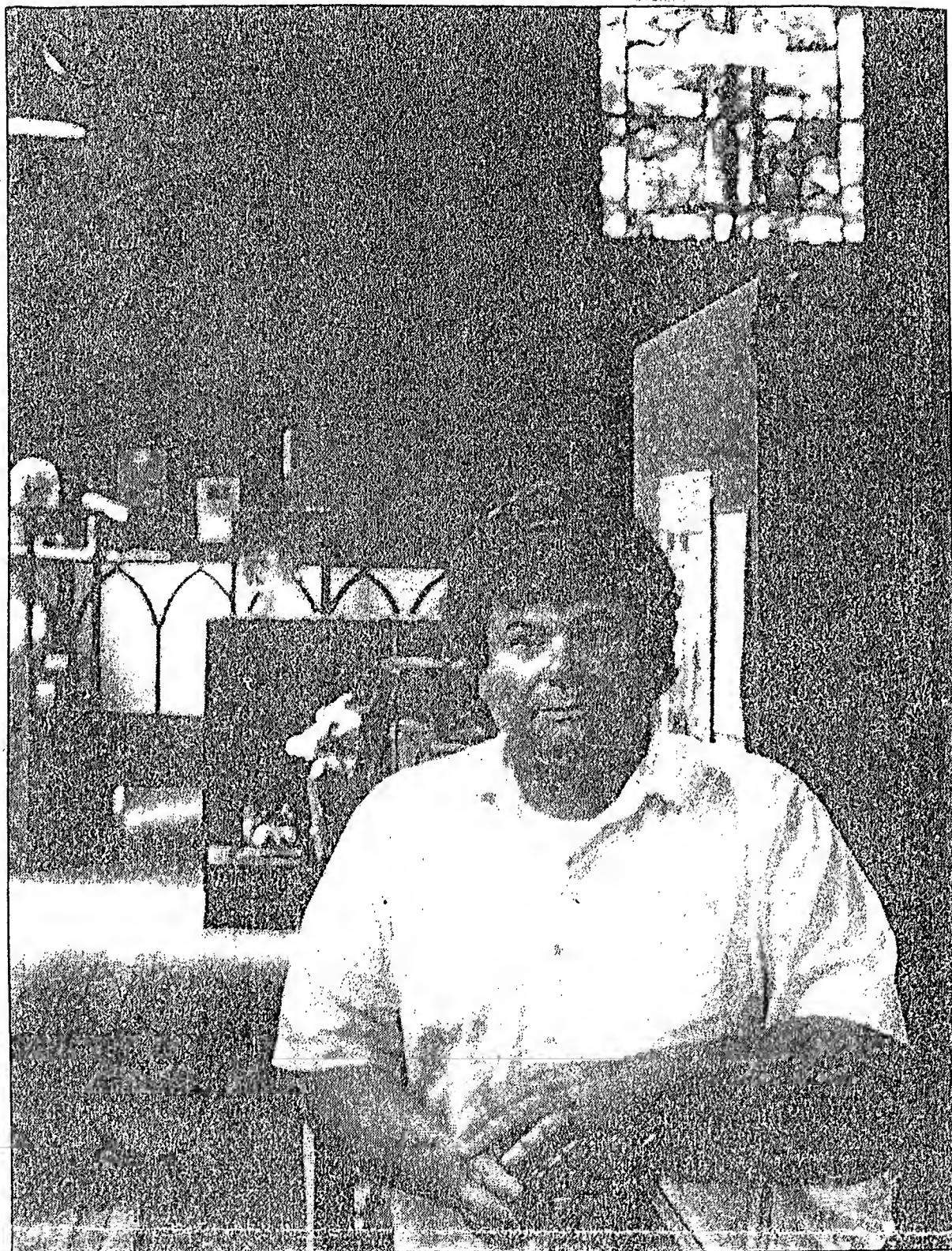
## Ripley's — Believe It or Not!



RIPLEY MUSEUM

The first "Believe It or Not," originally titled "Champs and Chumps."

Photo by Jimmie M. Smith  
SACRED HEART CHURCH



Bee/Walt Wiley

John Hacku is curator of Santa Rosa's Ripley museum, a monument to a local boy who gained fame.

**Believe it or not, Ripley went  
to church in his own museum**

John Hacku is curator of Santa Rosa's Ripley museum, a monument to a local boy who gained fame. See/Walt Wiley

# Believe it or not, Ripley went to church in his own museum

**SANTA ROSA** — John Hacku wasn't born in Santa Rosa, and he never thought much about Robert Ripley of "Believe it or Not" fame before, but now that he is Santa Rosa's keeper of the Robert Ripley flame, "Believe it or Not" has become his byword.

There are Ripley museums in major cities around the world, but Hacku believes his Ripley museum, tucked away here beneath the trees in a corner of Juilliard Park on the edge of downtown, is a Ripley museum that needn't take a back seat to anyone's.

For one thing, it is Ripley's home town's own monument to him and it surely is the only Ripley museum lodged in a building Ripley himself drew and mentioned as a world-class oddity in his newspaper feature.

"As a matter of fact, Robert Ripley himself attended church here when this was Santa Rosa's Baptist Church. "Believe it or not," Hacku said the other day as he showed off the tidy, little, city-owned museum of which he is the part-time curator and only paid employee.

"And of course, you know, this is the famous church Ripley wrote about, the Church of One Tree. All the boards that went into this church's construction came from a single redwood tree felled near Guerneville. Believe it or not."

Hacku, 43, a Connecticut native and 20-year resident of Santa Rosa, a travel guide and teacher when he

## ROADS WEST

By Walt Wiley

isn't working at the museum, admitted the phrase, "Believe it or not," has become a major part of his speech since he signed on at the museum earlier this year after serving as a volunteer for several years.

"It's just that everything you say about this man's life is so incredible you have to add that to the end of whatever you say. I don't know it's true. I believe it's true. You can believe it or not."

As Hacku spoke, he was standing among an array of display cases and exhibits from Ripley's life: a giant rhinoceros horn, blowups of Believe it or Not panels, documents, personal items, photographs, a full-size wax likeness of Ripley seated at his desk.

Ripley was born in Santa Rosa in 1891, 1893, 1894 or 1895, according to which account is believed or not, and he died in New York, officially on May 22, 1949, although there are variations on that as well, Hacku said.

Ripley, the Santa Rosa schoolboy, showed promise as a cartoonist, and he went on to draw sports cartoons, first for a local newspaper, then the San Francisco Examiner, then the New York Post.

It was while he was at the Post that he came up with the idea for the "Believe it or Not" cartoon panel. The

Post published the first of the series on Dec. 19, 1918, and it continues today, drawn by anonymous artists still under Ripley's name, appearing in 350 newspapers.

Once the distinctive feature caught on, Ripley was away for 30 years of almost non-stop travel, visiting 196 countries and amassing a huge collection of oddities and art as well as an almost inexhaustible supply of weird facts.

Hacku flipped on a videotape of old Ripley travel films. There parading across the screen in flickering black-and-white to the accompaniment of a booming-voiced newsreel announcer was one oddity after another that Ripley had uncovered in his travels.

There was an African woman wearing earrings that weighed 10 pounds, a South Pacific man with his teeth all filed to points, a convict in some faraway land whose sentence was to walk about the streets chained to a huge cross. There was even a report from Hell, which turns out to be a small town in Norway.

"Some of this might seem a little commonplace to us today," said Hacku. "But remember, in most cases Ripley was bringing these things to the American public for the first time."

*The Santa Rosa Ripley Museum, 102 Sonoma Ave., is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays from March through the third week in October.*



CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

April 18, 1991

The Church Of One Tree  
Monthly Report & News

As of Thursday morning we had a total of 976 visitors to the Church of One Tree. Total income for the 34 day period was \$1,074.95. That averages out to \$31.59 per day with an average of more than 28 people per day. The breakdown of statistics for this period March 22- April 17 is as follows:

The total breakdown for the past 19 days is as follows:  
March 22-April 17, 1991 (19 days)

Under 8	41
Adults	306
Youth	64
Seniors	87
Groups (8)	135
<hr/>	
Total	633 people

Groups	
1. YMCA of Marin	\$15. (26 people)
2 Daycare	\$7.50(22 under (6 yrs.)
3. Den #6	\$7.50(9 people)
4. (4 groups)	
Stockton Historical Society	\$30.00(48) (people)

Admissions \$630.50  
Sales 39.60 (postcards)  
Donations \$ 14.25

---

Total \$684.35

Year to Date \$1074.95 March 1 - April 17, 1991  
976 people

Sincerely,

*John Hacku*  
John Hacku



CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

May 17, 1991

### Monthly Report

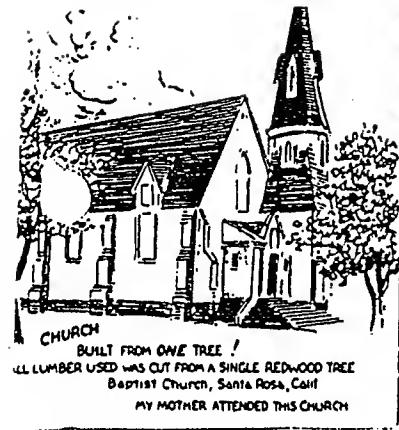
As of Friday morning we had a total of 1520 visitors to the Church of One Tree since our March opening. The total income for the first 55 days was \$1651.65. This is an average of \$30.03 per day with an average 28 people per day. The biggest day was on May 12, 1991 for this recent time period when \$62.70 was collected. We also had our slowest day in three years a few days before when on May 8th only \$3 was earned. Gaye LeBaron's article concerning Ripley's mother on Mother's Day in the Press Democrat helped our sales. Thank you Gaye.

The total breakdown for the past 21 days is as follows:  
April 18- May 16, 1991 (21 days)

Adults	241	Groups
Youth	42	
Seniors	111	YMCA 24 people (2 groups)
9 Groups	108	Kawana School 48 people (4 groups)
Under 8	42	Sports Leisure 24 people (2 groups)
Total	544	Will Tier Group 12 people (1 group)

Sales \$24.90  
Donations \$ 8.05  
Admissions \$543.75  
  
Total \$576.70

Sincerely,  
*John R. Hacku*  
John R. Hacku  
Curator



June 14, 1991

CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*  
Monthly Report

This month we will be featured on the KFTY station 50 show California North. The show will air on June 30, 1991 at 5:30 P.M. and will promote the museum as an interesting place to visit. The camera work was completed in a few hours time and did not interfere with the museum hours. Thank you TV 50!

Eight groups visited the Church of One Tree this month and enjoyed the tour and video. We had four groups from San Miguel School, two groups from The Auburn Senior Center, one group from Boy Scout Den #6 of Windsor, and one family group from England. The totals for this month are as follows:

May 17- June 13 (20 DAYS)

Adults	289
Seniors	136
Youth	27
Children	18
8 Groups	96

Total 566 people

\*Attached to this report is the feature written by Carole Terwilliger Meyers as it appeared in the San Francisco Examiner on May 11, 1991. Thank you Carole for the great story.

Sales 48.30  
Donations 10.15  
Admissions 600.35 ~~1599.75~~

Total ~~\$628.80~~ ~~1599.75~~ 658.20

Act<sup>F</sup>  
9/2

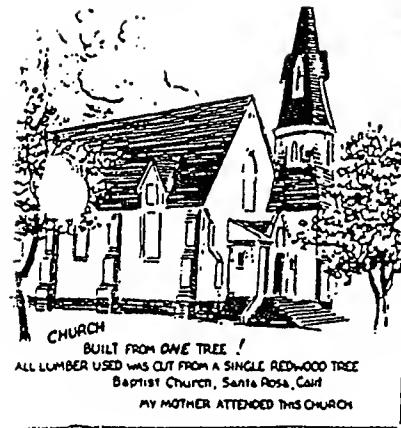
That makes our year to date total of 2086 visitors averaging 28 people per day. For the first 75 days of the season we have earned ~~\$2310.45~~ or \$30.80 per day which is ahead of the past few seasons. We look forward to a busy summer and hope to increase our visitor totals with the television promotion spot.

~~#2310.45~~ 2309.85

Sincerely,

John Hacku  
Curator





CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

Monthly Report

July 18, 1991

It's been an exciting month beginning with our museum featured in the California North television program on June 30, 1991 and being on the agenda at the Santa Rosa City Council meeting (see article)

We're well into the season now and it has been busier than usual. Our attendance is up over any previous time period since the museum first opened in 1973. Our statistics for the month are as follows:

June 14 -July 16, 1991

Admissions	\$943.50	Adults	424
Sales	71.00	Seniors	176
Donations	22.35	Youth	134
Total	<u>\$1,036.85</u>	Under 8	69 (Free)
		10 Groups	112
		Total	915

That brings our year to date visitors total to 3001 people. That averages to 31 people per day since the season began. Our revised and corrected year to date monies total \$3346.70.

On Saturday the volunteers will have a picture day for the Santa Rosa calendar. Some of our volunteers will be lucky enough to be in the city calendar for 1992.

We continue to have visitors from around the world and visitors from Belgium, Russia, Germany, China, England, New Zealand, and Japan are a few worth mentioning.

We have a new supply of the small history books "The Church of One Tree" written by Reverend Gaston in 1902. This book sells for \$1.00 and satisfies the visitors need for in depth history.

Sincerely,

*John R. Hacku*

John Hacku  
Curator

Office of Academic Vice President • *Continuing Education*  
One Washington Square • San Jose, California 95192-0135 • 408/924-2600 • FAX 408/924-2666

August 14, 1991

Church Built from One Tree  
Attn: John Hacker  
492 Sonoma Ave.  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Dear John,

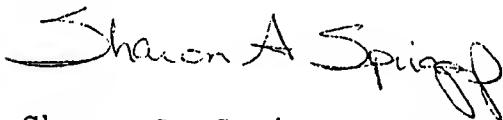
This letter is written to confirm our telephone conversation concerning San Jose State's reservation as stated in the information listed below. Full payment will be made following completion of services.\*\*

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Please notify us as soon as possible if any of the information listed below conflicts with your information. We look forward to an enjoyable day with you!

Services: Guided Tour of Church

Date of Services:	Sunday, May 24, 1992 (11:00am)
Estimated Nbr. of People:	30 - 40
Cost Per Person:	\$7.50/per twelve people
Other:	Please let us know if our tour will be a problem with the church being moved.

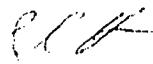
Sincerely,

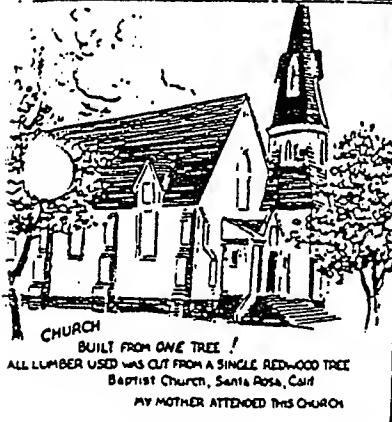


Sharon A. Spriggs, Program Assistant  
San Jose State University Travel Programs

\*\*Or,

Deposit (if applicable) and balance payment will be made upon receipt of invoice and/or completion of services.





CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

Monthly Report

August 16, 1991

Miles Sanders from KCRA TV in Sacramento completed a news story on The Church of One Tree and Bob Ripley this month. The show will air locally Friday or Monday and local news programs across the nation will be able to use it for their NBC segments.

We have better than average statistics for the month July 17 through August 16, 1991. 859 people toured the museum during the 23 days. Our statistics for the month are as follows:

July 17 - August 16, 1991

Admissions	\$895.50	Under 8	52
Sales	85.90	Adults	395
Donations	21.65	Youth	144
		Seniors	172
Total	\$1003.05	8 Groups	96
		Total	859

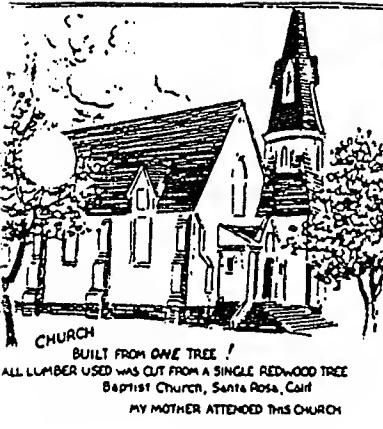
Our year to date totals are as follows:

\$4349.75	Total
3860	People

We continue to have visitors from around the world. Visitors from New Zealand recently identified an old photograph of Bob. People from Ireland and Costa Rica report seeing the Church of One Tree in a repeat of "The Believe It Or Not" series. It was also reported that the old 1939 cartoon done on The Church Of One Tree was in last week's Houston Post, "believe it or not".

Sincerely,

John R. Hacku  
Curator



CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

Monthly Report

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Sincerely,

John R. Hacku  
Curator

# Adventure

**C** (nued from Page D1)

London's travels and many mementos of his life. The park is open daily from 8 a.m. to sunset. Phone: 938-1519.

**K**ozlowski Farm and Farm Trails Map — Experience farm life as you travel to farms open to the public and listed in the Sonoma County Farm Trails Map. At Kozlowski Farms, a Shetland pony greets the kids and frozen apple juice pops are a welcome treat. At other farms, families can gather eggs, sip fresh goats milk, pet a llama or pluck fresh Gravenstein apples from the tree. Phone: 544-4728 for Farm Trails information.

**L**ake Sonoma Fish Hatchery — During salmon spawning season (November to March), salmon return to the Lake Sonoma Fish Hatchery to lay their eggs. From the second floor Interpretive Center, visitors watch as the eggs are removed from the females and incubated for 20 days. Start tanks and bring ponds are home to the salmon. All they are 6 to 7 inches long and released into Dry Creek. The Visitor Center contains interactive displays, dioramas and exhibits that depict the lives of native Pomo Indians, geological formations in the area and indigenous wildlife. Phone: 433-9483.

**M**iniature Horse Ranch — The only miniature horse ranch west of the Mississippi is located in Petaluma and is open to the public May through Labor Day. Each day at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., the horses perform in the indoor arena. Miniature horses have a colorful history dating back to the 16th century, when the royal families of Europe bred them for pets. Phone 762-1808 or 50220.

**N**ew Rohnert Park Performing Arts Center and the Luther Burbank Center for the Arts — State-of-the-art lighting and sound systems make 500-seat Rohnert Park facility a welcome addition to the Sonoma County performing arts scene. Furthermore, visit the Luther Burbank Center for the Arts' 1,500 seat theater for guest lectures, musical entertainment, comedy and live theater. Phone: Luther Burbank Center, 527-7006 or 546-3600; Rohnert Park Performing Arts Center, 1700.

**O**utdoor Star Gazing and Planetarium show — During the school year, the Santa Rosa Junior College planetarium opens its doors to the public for special shows and night star gazing through the college's powerful telescope. In the planetarium theater a special projector reproduces the appearance of the sky onto the dome overhead, showing the sun, moon, planets and stars in the exact locations. Shows begin at 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday evenings. Early arrival is recommended. Children under 5 years are not admitted. Phone: 527-4371.

**P**etrified Forest — The eruption of Mount St. Helena over 3 million years ago sent molten lava through this grove of redwoods, preserving them forever. The Petrified Forest was discovered in 1870 and immortalized by Robert Louis Stevenson in "The Silverado Squatters." A museum and nature store contains fossilized fish, shells and historical information. Open daily. Phone: 942-6667.

**Q**uality Children's Theater — Sonoma County's Cinnabar Theater in Petaluma presents storybook classics in music theater presentations designed specifically for children. Educational kits are available by request with story information, vocabulary exercises and a list of follow-up activities. Phone: 763-8920.

**R**ipley's "Believe it or Not" Museum — Santa Rosa native Robert Ripley was a cartoonist who, for thirty years, captured bizarre and unusual facts in his Ripley's "Believe it or Not" series. In addition to extensive material on Ripley, the museum includes a pictorial history of the Church of One Tree, the building which houses the Ripley memorabilia and was constructed from a single redwood tree. Phone: 576-5233.

**S**onoma Cheese Factory and the Petaluma Creamery — Slide shows, historical displays and tours give visitors a glimpse of the local dairy industry and an opportunity to see cheese making first-hand. Sample local cheeses and in Petaluma, visit the gift shop and ice cream parlor. Phone: Sonoma Cheese Factory, 996-1931; Petaluma Creamery Store, 778-1234.

**T**raintown — Travel in open cars through miniature forests and eucalyptus groves, through a 140-foot tunnel, and across bridges along Traintown's 1 1/4 miles of track. The 20-minute ride aboard the miniature train includes a stop at the imaginary town of Lakeview where passengers can hand-feed a menagerie of farm animals. Phone: 938-3912.

**U**nlimited fun at our year-round fairs and festivals — Sonoma County's Calendar of Events is a full 12-month calendar of activities. For a free copy, write to the Sonoma County Convention & Visitors Bureau, 10 Fourth St., Santa Rosa, CA 95401 and request a copy of the event calendar. A 32-page Visitor Guide is also available for only \$2.00.

**V**allejo's Petaluma Adobe and Sonoma Barracks — Retrace early California history with self-guided tours of General Mariano Vallejo's ranch house, Rancho Petaluma, and the Sonoma Barracks that housed his troops and later became headquarters of the Bear Flag party. Vallejo's two-story city home, also in Sonoma, is furnished as it was when he lived there. Open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., except holidays. Phone: 938-1519 or 938-1215.

**W**ater Activities — Sonoma County offers fishing, swimming and boating at Spring Lake in Santa Rosa, Lake Sonoma, and along the slow moving Russian River. At Windsor Waterworks, an all-day pass includes unlimited rides on the four 400-foot high waterslides. The facility in-

cludes a swimming pool, pool, snack bar, souvenir video game room and picnic area. Phone: Windsor Waterworks, 838-7760.

**X**ceptional Trout Fls — Pierce the clouds to reach the 2,400-foot elevation where Smith's Mount Sona Trout Farm is located — Ida Clayton Road, Calistoga and pole are provided. Smith's trout are as contagious as the budding fisherman hooks his/her catch. Smith's Trout Farm offers the fish and invites families to advantage of the picnic area 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekends through October. Closed and 21. Phone: 987-3651.

**Y**a Ka Ama Indian Education & Development — On the last Saturday of the month, Ya Ka Ama invites and non-native American children alike to its "Honoe the Chi" program. Indoor and outdoor activities for children of all ages, crafts, pottery making, a track identification, games, storytelling. Phone: 887-1541.

**Z**oom along the track at Scandia Family Fun Center — Located off Highway 101 in Rohnert Park, Scandia includes two 18-hole miniature golf courses, nine batting cages, a 12-car race track for children (must be 48 inches tall) and an arcade center. Open daily. Phone: 584-1361.

For further information on the activities and activities listed above, contact the Sonoma County Convention & Visitors Bureau, 10 Fourth St., Santa Rosa. Phone: 575-1191.

## ON THE GO

### Canoeing, boating

A new kayak and canoe trip information line has been established for people who want to initiate or join a river, lake or ocean trip. Call 887-7228 to learn about upcoming outings, and/or leave your trip request.

**Northern Rowing Club** — Petaluma-based club, activities on the Petaluma River. Introductory lessons available. Two-hour segments covering launching, basic tips and techniques, water safety and boat rigging. Cost \$30, by appointment only. Information: Greg Sabourin, 762-1832.

**Redwood Paddlers** sponsors a canoe and kayak pool session every Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Santa Rosa Swim Center, 455 Ridgeway, Santa Rosa. Bring own boat. Paddle instruction, \$3 per session. Phone: Urs, 887-1149.

**Sequoia Paddling Club** — July 12-15, Basic canoe class for those with little or no experience. Learn the pry, drew, J-stroke and other basic paddling maneuvers. Friday, Monday, 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, half day, on Sonoma Lake. Fee is \$30. Phone: 528-0940; Saturday: See kayaking on Tomales Bay. Phone: 782-5381; Sunday: Canoe rescue workshop, Meyette Swim Center in Santa Rosa.

meetings at Round Table Pizza, 421 Stony Road. First Thursday of every month in the meeting room. Information: Gery, 763-8300

### Cycling

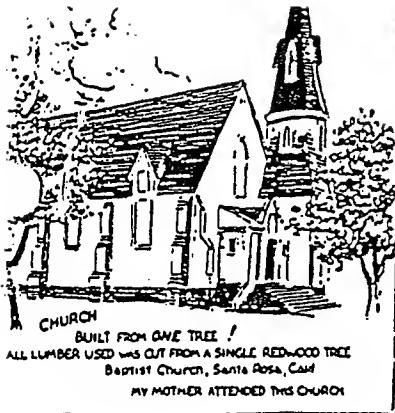
**Santa Rosa Cycling Club** — Wednesday mountain bike ride, 6 p.m., meet at parking lot in tennis courts at Howarth Park; Thursday night rides, 8 p.m., Santa Rosa High School. Wednesday rides also scheduled. Phone: Ride director, Dwelly, 887-9309.

### Trail Maintenance

**Trail grooming** — 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Saturday maintenance and grooming of Brushy Peak, Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, 2605 Adobe Creek Road, Kenwood Park. No experience necessary. Bring a pair of work gloves and something to eat. Phone: Bill, 431-7341.

### Baseball trips

**A's vs. Baltimore** — Sunday, \$18, bus leaves 8 a.m. from the Santa Rosa Senior Center, Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa. Phone: Swengel, 829-1750



CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

September 16, 1991

MONTHLY REPORT

I am pleased to report that we have surpassed the past four years in admissions and total sales and we still have 25 days to go before the season ends. Tourists and Santa Rosa citizens love the Juilliard Park and many favorable comments about the Church of One Tree and the lovely setting have been stated.

Mr. Edward Capps sent information with regards to his participation in a past "Believe It Or Not" story. He also will provide some of the background letters that were sent to Bob Ripley in response to his ability in 1939 of "Playing the Trumpet while tap dancing on the ceiling". Stay tuned.

The new books are out and next year we might consider making them available to the public for a small profit. Ripley Entertainment International Inc. has released two books to celebrate Bob Ripley's 100th birthday. The new titles are "Ripley's Believe It or Not, Odd Places", and a second paperback book titled "Ripley's Believe It or Not, Weird Inventions". Both books sell for \$3.50 a piece at major bookstores around the world. There have been requests for some of the old Ripley cartoons and this is a good collection. Bob Ripley has several official birthdates from 1890 - 1894 but Ed Myers of Ripley Entertainment International Inc. has decided to celebrate his birthday in 1993. The old gravesite here in Santa Rosa has the 1890 birthdate. There are other official dates as well.

The statistics for this month are as follows:

August 17 - September 17, 1991

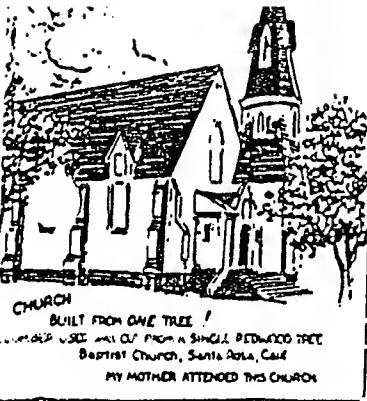
Admissions	\$750
Sales	59.10
Donations	18.65
<hr/>	
Total	\$827.75

	People
4 Groups	48 People
Adults	332
Youth	101
Seniors	175
Under 8 (free)	32
<hr/>	
Total	688 People

*YTD \$5177.50  
4548 people*

Sincerely,

John R. Hacku  
Curator



CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

October 20, 1991

Final Report

The KGO news people with Jack Hanson filmed a short segment on the Church Of One Tree this past month. There is a video copy along with this report. It was a good season and the museum is closed for the winter. We plan to open on March 1, 1992 unless there are other plans.

The statistics for the period September 18 - October 20 are:

Adults	321		
Child	50	Sales	\$29
Youth	37	Admissions	\$645.75
Seniors	152	Donations	\$29.28
3 Groups	36	Total	\$704.03
Total	596		

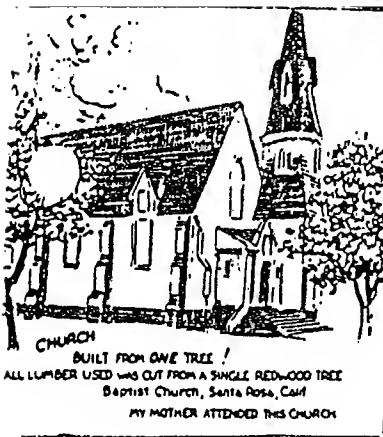
Adjusted final total for 1991 is \$5882.88

Total attendance for 1991 5144 people

Sincerely,

John R. Hacku  
Curator

) Thanks to everyone who made this a successful year.



CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

Church of One Tree  
Ripley Memorial  
492 Sonoma Ave.  
Santa Rosa, CA. 954

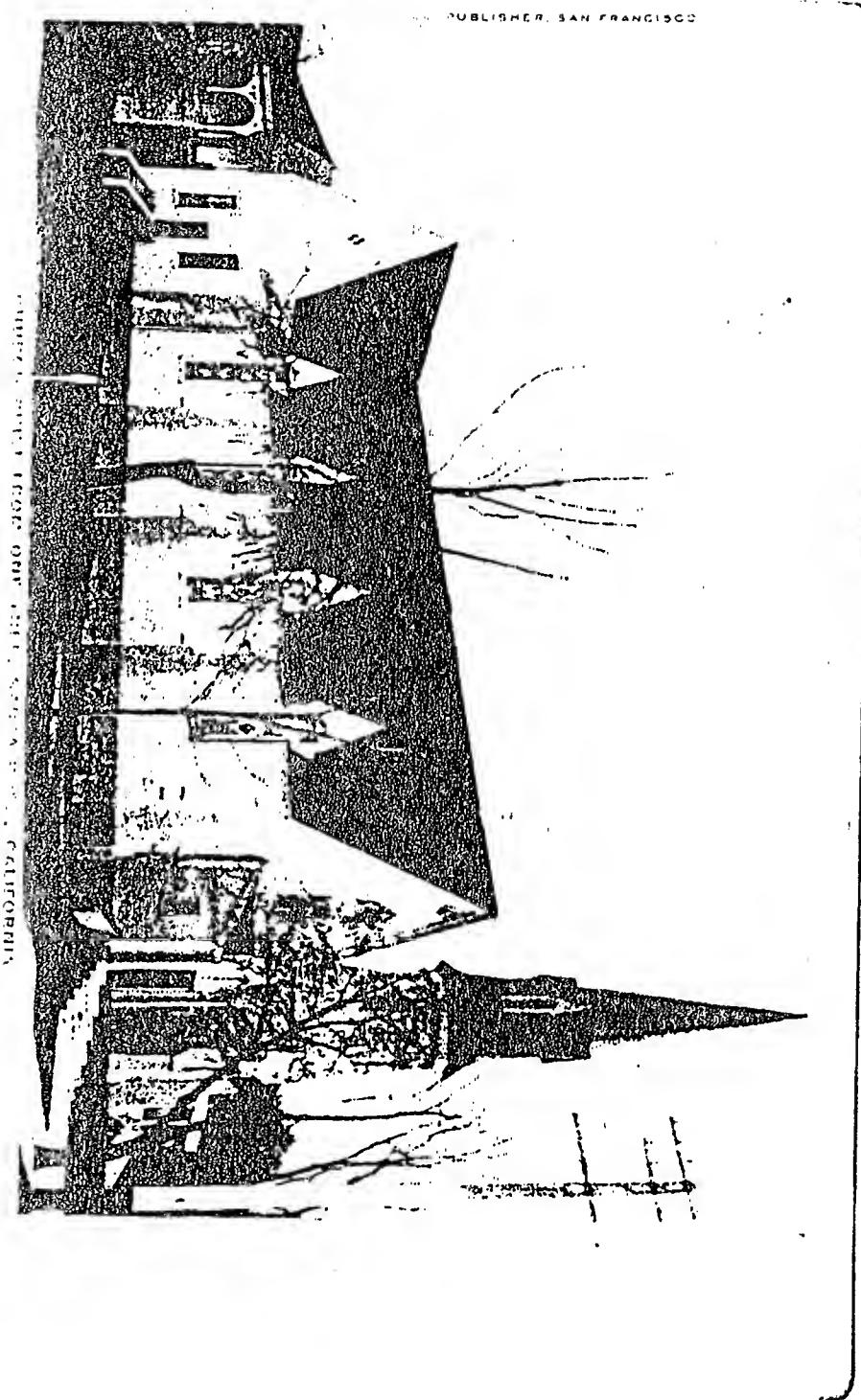
Mr. Miles Sanders  
KCRA  
3 Television Circle  
Sacramento, CA. 95813

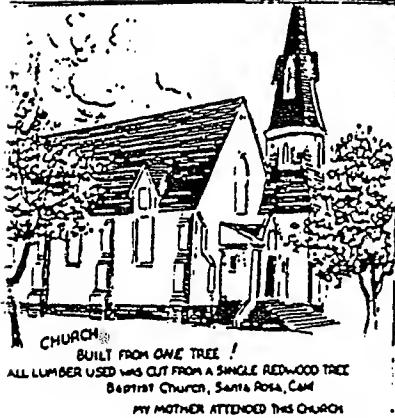
Dear Mr. Sanders:

Thank you for selecting our museum for your television segment. Here is the material you requested. We look forward to seeing you on August 14, 1991. If there is any other material or information that you need please do not hesitate to contact us at (707) 524-5233. Thank you.

Sincerely,

John R. Hacku  
Curator





CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

492 Sonoma Avenue  
Santa Rosa, California  
U.S.A. 95401-6319  
(707) 524-5233

July 19, 1992

The totals for the month of June were the highest in three years for the Church of One Tree. The T-Shirts for promotion were recently purchased for a lower price which will give the museum a higher profit, I have sent the information to Toronto and they wish us to add the trademark if we decide to sell these in the future.

The shirts were purchased by me with no cost to the city. We ordered about 12 shirts. The shirt is given for a donation of \$10. The profit (minus the cost) is listed under donations in the daily report.

The statistics for the time period June 15- July 18, 1992 are:

Adults	410	\$615
Youth	139	\$104.25
Senior	184	\$138
7 Groups	80	\$ 45
6 & Under	46	Free

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Total people 859

Sales	\$32.80
Donations	\$40.87
Admissions	\$902.25

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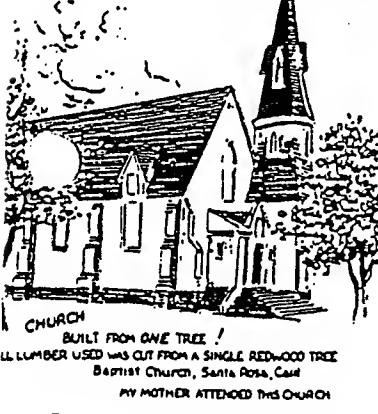
Total \$975.52

Total since March 1, 1992

Total 2880 people

Totals \$3183.34

Sincerely,  
*John R. Hacku*  
John R. Hacku  
Curator



CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

March Report

March 18, 1992

The 1992 season is underway and the brochures have been distributed to various locations. The Press Democrat had us listed in the Community Calendar and we will also be in the Friday Life section soon. The Contra Costa Times will be releasing an article written by Les Allen on Robert Ripley and The Church of One Tree. A Marin County newspaper also will be releasing an article concerning our museum.

The television set and the answering machine were donated by John R. Hacku, Curator of the museum. This will greatly enhance the video portion of the Ripley history. There was a KGO TV spot on Channel 7 to promote the museum in the Bay area. This was part of the Channel 7 News production team and was produced at no expense to the City of Santa Rosa.

The first eleven days saw a total of 274 people and we are off to a better start than the last three years. These are the statistics.

137 Adults  
50 Seniors  
25 Youth  
19 Under 8 years old  
43 people (4½ Groups)

274 Total

That is an average of 25 per day.

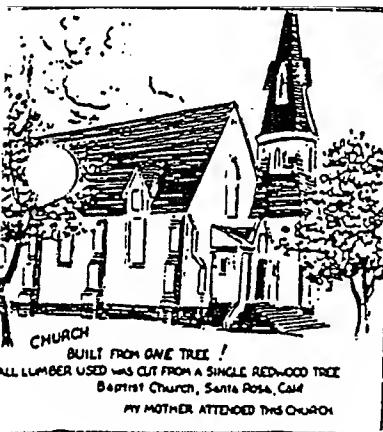
Admissions	\$295.50	
Sales (Postcards)	11.60	That is \$28.71 per day.
Donations	8.75	
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$315.85</u>	

Same Time Frame	1989 = \$0	(Not opened until April 19)
	1990 = \$195.50	
	1991 = \$267.60	
	1992 = \$315.85	

We had 4½ groups visit the Church of One Tree. Sonoma County Mental Health Group had 18 people and wanted to be considered as 1½ groups.



March 18, 1992

CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*March Report

The Groups who visited us this month are as follows:

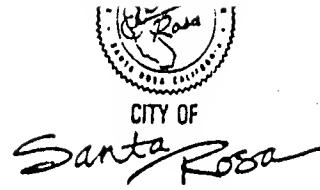
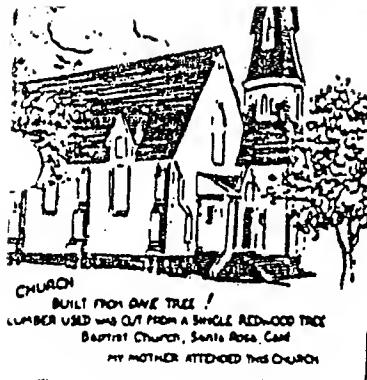
1. Sonoma County Mental Health Service (18 people)
2. Connecticut Group (6 people)
3. Neighborhood Church Petaluma (10 people)
4. Boy Scout Troop (Luther Burbank) (9 people)

There are many other groups that have signed up for this season to the Church of One Tree. I hope that many more people will enjoy this wonderful resource which is close to beautiful Luther Burbank Home and Gardens and on the lovely Juilliard Park.

On March 10, 1992 John Hacku was inducted into the Chamber of Commerce. The Church of One Tree was a major part of his presentation and Keith Woods promised to drop into the museum to see it. It will be fun promoting The Church of One Tree and the memory of Bob Ripley. I invite you all to attend and see the museum. Thank you for another season and keep up the great work.

Sincerely,

John R. Hacku



April 16, 1992

The statistics for the time period March 16, 1992 through April 16, 1992 are as follows for The Church of One Tree:

Admissions \$588.25

Sales (Postcards) 20.50

Donations 26.41

---

Total \$635.16

Adults 259

Seniors 109

Youth 44

Under 7 38

Groups (11) 131 People

---

Total 581 people

The year to date totals since March 1, 1992 are:

Attendance 855 people

33 Days \$956.01

This averages to \$28.80 per day and 26 visitors per day at this early portion of the season.

Sincerely,

*S. Hacku*

John R. Hacku  
Curator

May 17, 1992

THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE  
RIPLEY MEMORIAL MUSEUM  
MONTHLY REPORT

The past two weeks showed a decline in attendance since the riots in Los Angeles. Hopefully the summer will return to normal. The visitors that we did have visit noticed the clean park and lovely grounds.

Gwen Kirkbride donated a "Believe It Or Not" stamp art picture for the museum. The picture of flowers is made exclusively of postage stamps. She worked and lived in Santa Rosa during the 1960's and became fascinated with a work of art she saw in a Ripley museum made entirely of postage stamps. She presented a letter from Edward Meyer (Vice-President of Ripley International) who authorised her donation to The Church Of One Tree in Santa Rosa, California. Thank you Gwen for the lovely donation.

The month totals from April 17 - May 17, 1992 are as follows:

Admissions:	\$535.75
Sales	\$ 27.80
Donations	\$ 38.15

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Total	\$601.70
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Adults	225
Seniors	120
Youth	40
Under 7	15
12 Groups	144

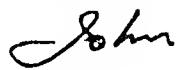
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Total People	544
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Year to date totals: 1399 people

\$1552.71

Sincerely,



John R. Hacku  
Curator

The Church Of One Tree  
Ripley Memorial  
Monthly Report

June 15, 1992

The Church of One Tree had two news articles written about the museum and printed in various papers in the Bay Area. Les Allen wrote one of the stories for the Contra County Times. The other story was printed in the Marin papers.

The monthly figures are as follows:

Adults	258
Youth	75
Seniors	127
Child	30
Groups	132 (11 groups)
<hr/> Total	622 people

Admissions	\$587.00
Sales	25.20
Donations	42.91
<hr/> Total	\$655.11

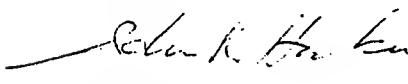
Year to date since March 1, 1992

2021 people

\$2207.82

I recently purchased Church of One Tree T-Shirts and Ripley Videos for sale at the museum for the summer season. The T-Shirts were the result of the Ripley Print combined with the talents of Connie Davis a local artist and Chamber of Commerce member. All proceeds above cost will go to the museum. The Videos were recently made available by Ripley International and depict the old television show and travels of Robert Ripley.

Sincerely,

  
John R. Hacku  
Curator

# Hognestad, Inc. dba

## Hogue Construction

701 ARATA LANE

WINDSOR, CA. 95492

(707) 585-0245  
(707) 585-0246

August 10, 1992

ATTENTION: Resident

SUBJECT: Sonoma Avenue Reconstruction

Dear Resident:

This letter is to inform you that Hogue Construction will begin underground sewer and water construction work on Sonoma Avenue on August 17 thru October 2, 1992.

We will be posting "No Parking" signs along Sonoma Avenue and ask that you not park in areas posted so we can complete our construction swiftly and safely.

Your consideration and cooperation to our concerns are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

HOGUE CONSTRUCTION

*Scott Coleman*

Scott Coleman  
Estimator

SC:blk

## “Believe It Or Not”

The Ripley Museum in the Church Built from One Tree will be open for the season beginning March 3 through October 18. The museum, located in Juilliard Park at 492 Sonoma Avenue and made famous in Bob Ripley's cartoon "Believe It Or Not," is made from one redwood tree.

Hours are Wednesday-Sunday 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission is \$1.50 adult, 75 cents seniors and youth 7-17, and free for children 6 and under. Group rates are available. The side entrance offers physically challenged access. Call 524-5233.



## Children's Cooking

Morning Children's Cooking classes will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays for children ages 4 and up beginning in March at the Sebastopol Community Center. An afterschool class will also be offered on Mondays for children ages 7 and up. Call 823-1511 for more information.



## Children's Concert

Mr. Music (aka Jim Corbett) and John Brandenburg will host a children's concert on Saturday, March 13 as part of the Sonoma County Folk Festival. The program will feature students performing on traditional folk instruments such as fiddle, bagpipes, and harps.

An all day pass to the Folk Festival, including the afternoon concert by Sweet Honey in the Rock, is \$7 adult, \$5 children. Call 546-3600.



# Mumble Jumble Puzzle

■ **FILL IN THE MISSING WORDS IN BOXES ON EIGHT.**

----- Dumpty sat on a wall.

## Truff the Magic Dragon                    by the sea

Twinkle, twinkle, little star  
How I wonder what \_\_\_\_\_ are

## The Cat in the \_\_\_\_\_

Down by the \_\_\_\_\_ early in the morning

# Gateway Writer

Young writers are encouraged to enter the "Young Writer's Award" contest. Each invited to select one of their outstanding entries for the ceremony which will be held Thursday, April 12, at the County Office of Education, 5340 Skylane.

Elise Klaven, author and illustrator  
friends, teachers and principals are invited  
or 546-8253 evenings.

# QUESTI MONTHLY

---

by Deanna

*"What a  
look forwa*



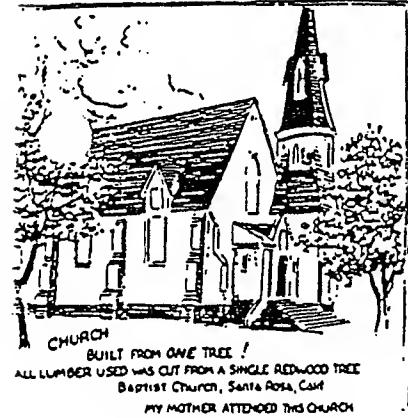
"Sixteen y  
It's nice to  
license. Yo  
**Patrick R**  
Age 6,  
Sequoia El

"I've  
be  
caus  
drive a car and go anywhere you want;  
almost out of school. Eighteen ju



"The mos  
because I  
my drive  
**Brandon**  
Age 11,  
Bennett V;  
School

Ripley's — Believe It Or Not!



CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

Church of One Tree

492 Sonoma Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA.

March 4, 1993

Media Release

The Church of One Tree/Ripley Memorial Museum has a change in hours of operation. This non-profit museum which houses the memories of The Church built from One Redwood Tree and Santa Rosa cartoonist "Believe It Or Not" Bob Ripley will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. effective immediately. Prices of admission are \$1.50 for adults and 75¢ for seniors and youth. Children accompanied by an adult are admitted free six and under. For more information call 524-5233. We are open Wednesday through Sunday through October 18, 1993.

Sincerely,

John R. Hacku  
Curator

# Arbor Day

## Celebration

Call or Drop in to the Birthplace

### Join In City Wide Activities

Tree Planting, Guided Tree Walk

Demonstrations: Composting

Tree Pruning & Maintenance

Poster Contest - Entertainment

**Friday, March 5 & Saturday, March 6, 1993**

#### **- Events For Friday, March 5 -**

Ceremony - 1:00 pm at Luther Burbank Home & Gardens

Presentation - Luther Burbank Elementary School

Tree City Award - California Department of Forestry

Poster Contest Award - City Council

Acceptance by winning school

Tree Planting Ceremony - Juilliard Park

#### **- Events For Saturday, March 6 -**

9:30 am Tree Planting at Railroad Square

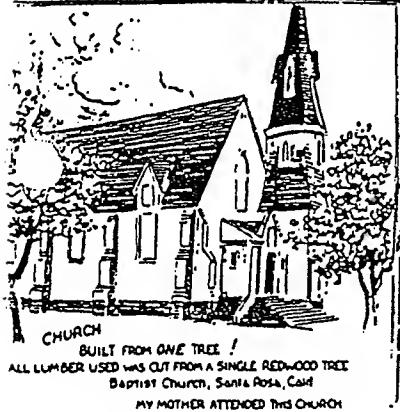
10:30 am Guided Tour of the Trees of Juilliard Park

11:30 am Demonstration: Tree Pruning & Maintenance - Juilliard Park

1:00 pm Compost Demonstration -  
Luther Burbank Home & Gardens

Arbor Day is celebrated in California on Luther Burbank's Birthday  
March 7, in recognition of his major contributions to horticulture.

**Program and Activities Sponsored by City of Santa Rosa, PG&E, Sonoma County ReLeaf,  
and Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce • For More Information Call 524-5115**

CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

March Newsletter

The 1993 season opened with new displays and a whole new look to the inside. Our front foyer was painted and the inside walls were touched up with new paint. The displays are gradually being upgraded. The Juilliard Park looks wonderful.

The video from ABC which filmed Sonoma County for a week with "Fred and Elmer" was received and this news program was on the Hollywood station for one week over the winter. If anyone wishes to visit the museum this week I have it available for your viewing pleasure. The news show highlights Sonoma County and includes The Church of One Tree, Snoopy Gallery, and The Luther Burbank Home and Gardens.

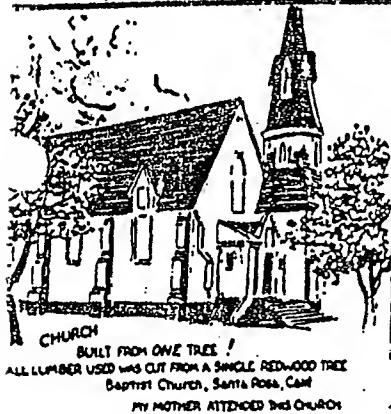
The Greater Santa Rosa Conference & Visitors Bureau wishes to feature us in it's upcoming video to promote Santa Rosa. Ms. Deborah J. Fisch has met with The Church of One Tree and we have an on-going plan to participate in their new promotion of the Church of One Tree.

People made several suggestions with regards to the display time year. The Luther Burbank Home and Gardens opening luncheon will be this month and plans are underway to continue our complimentary relationship. The Arbor Day Celebration will be this weekend. Bob Hornback has agreed to do one Tree Tour of Juilliard Park (after the Sally Joy format). This will be promoted as a Church of One Tree activity and will be announced for April. Our new hours of display are 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. effective immediately!

I will be the host speaker to the Chamber of Commerce April 14, 1993 "Good Morning Santa Rosa" It will be held at the Luther Burbank Center in Larkfield. This will provide good promotion and exposure to Sonoma County. Many new people to the area are not aware of "The Church of One Tree/Ripley Museum. Come join us for breakfast at 7-8:30 a.m.

Sincerely,

John R. Hacku  
Curator



CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

Monthly Report

The Church Of One Tree  
Ripley Memorial Museum

The 1993 season is underway and the spring is full of hope and promise of a new beginning. The 1993 season marks the 75th anniversary of the cartoon "Believe It Or Not" which was drawn by Bob Ripley and submitted to his editor on December 18, 1918. The cartoon was printed in the New York Globe the next day and millions of fans demanded more "Believe It Or Nots".

The foyer and the outside doors to the museum have been painted. Tom Kint and his staff under the direction of Robert Young completed work on the floors for the 1993 season. The new displays are ready and our season doors are open. Gaye LeBaron and Les Allen will be doing a segment on us this year with their newspapers and Jerry Graham from Bay Area Backroads promises to do an update on Ripley. Channel 50 has suggested interest in a future segment and Dee Dee Myers visited the museum in hopes of doing a future segment for her news broadcast. Channel 7 of Los Angelos sent their news copy from last year's show. Jamie Douglas from the Convention and Visitors Center received a copy on Sonoma County from Fred and Elmer (the Los Angelos travel news show). I have a copy of the show and made it available to those who wish to see it. Sally Joy is in the Burbank portion of the video along with Jack Ballinger two popular docents at Luther Burbank Home & Gardens.

On April 14 there will be a presentation made to the Chamber of Commerce. John Hacku will give an informational talk about the museum. On the following Saturday Bob Hornback will give an informational "tree walk" of Juilliard park. This is designed after Sally Joy's annual walk through that was performed on Arbor Day festivities.

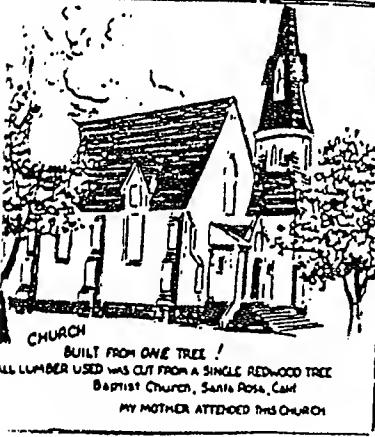
The statistics for the first 14 days are as follows:

Seniors	52		
Adults	83	Admissions	\$281.25
Children	6	Sales	38.50
Youth	13	Donations	\$ 50.79
9 Groups	103		
Total. 257			\$370.54

(Includes \$50 advance  
(deposit for 10 student  
(groups May 11&18.

Sincerely,

  
John R. Hacku



CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

Monthly Report

April 19, 1993

The museum was featured this month on the NBC program Bay Area Backroads. Thank you Jerry Graham for a lovely episode. Our admission is up and the first \$100 day was recorded last Sunday (actually \$108.05). This is the first time in the four years of operation that we have been this busy. It is really a good feeling to know that the museum is again being visited by many people. The road repair continues out front and this encourages people to use the Juilliard Park entrance.

) KZST and Brent Farris called live last Friday and interviewed us on the air. This is the 75th anniversary of the "Believe It Or Not" cartoon. The church is also celebrating the 120th year anniversary. Brent promises to call again this Friday during his morning show. This is added promotion for the museum free of charge.

John Hacku spoke at Good Morning Santa Rosa on April 14. There is a flyer enclosed with this report. He spoke of the history of the museum and Juilliard Park.

On May 22 Bob Hornback will conduct a Juilliard Park walk on the Trees of Juilliard Park. This will begin at 10 a.m. and leave from The Church of One Tree. Sally Joy has also expressed a desire to continue this tradition at some future date. She has already conducted one tree walk this year during the Arbor Day Celebration.

The statistics for March 20 through April 18, 1993 are:

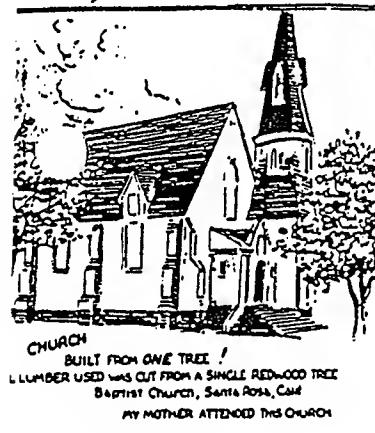
Children	24	Admissions	\$723
Adults	323	Sales	67.70
Youth	89	Donations	27.50
Seniors	139		
11 Groups	132		
		Total	\$818.20
Total	707		

Year to date 964 people

The corrected total for the March report is \$372.55  
\$818.20

Sincerely,  
*John R. Hacku*

Year to Date  
\$1190.75



CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

Monthly Report

May 17, 1993

On May 22 Bob Hornback will lead the public on a tour through Juilliard Park beginning at 10 a.m. Bob is an expert gardener and has many accomplishments. His last year effort created the famous thatched cottage for the Sonoma County Fair. The Men's Garden Club has been promoting this event and John Hacku will donate the monies necessary for group entrance into the museum following the walking tour. The Press Democrat has already announced the event. Our Curator, John Hacku is also President of The Men's Garden Club of Santa Rosa. Sally Joy has expressed interest in conducting the next "Tree Walk" before the season ends. Sally is currently working to update the map and guide for the Juilliard Park trees and garden.

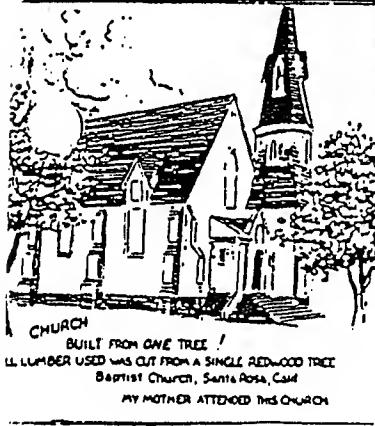
An Ice Cream social is in the planning with "Clo The Cow". Clover Farms will be working with us for an Ice Cream Social sometime in the future. Hopefully this will provide a chance to open up the area to residents who have not noticed the park or the museum. More on this as it develops.

The statistics for this year are better than the past four years. We have been working closely with The Luther Burbank Home and Gardens to promote the Church of One Tree and vice versa. President Phyllis Alberigi, has expressed interest in doing a mutual project in the future perhaps near the Rose Garden and Redwood Grove near the front of The Church of One Tree.

The new guide books are in and they are lovely. The cost is \$1.00 and provides a good biography of Bob Ripley. The Church of One Tree is written up inside. These books are donated to the museum by Curator John Hacku with no cost to the City this year.

The statistics from April 19 to May 17th are:

Groups 11	132 people	(Madrone School Groups tallied at year's start)
Children	11	
Youth	31	Admissions \$442.75
Adults	169	Sales \$ 56.50
Seniors	129	Donations \$ 27.65
		<hr/> Total \$526.90
Total	574 people	Year to Date \$1717.65
Year to date	1538	



CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

Church Built from One Tree  
Juilliard Park  
492 Sonoma Avenue  
Santa Rosa, California  
95491 (707) 524-5233

Garden Events  
Sunset Magazine  
80 Willow Rd.  
Menlo Park, CA.  
94025

Hi Folks:

I am proud to announce a very special event for Saturday September 4, 1993 between 10 a.m. and 12 noon. We will give away free ice cream during our special "Tree Tour" through the lovely nine acres of the Juilliard Park. The rose garden will also be visited. The tour is free and leaves from the museum at 10 a.m. There will be ice cream sandwiches provided by Clover Farms to the first 125 people who arrive.

Sally Joy our tree and rose specialist will lead the walk through the nine lovely acres in front of the lovely Church Built from One Tree. This week will also mark the 120th anniversary of the Church Built from One Tree. It was in 1873 during the month of September that the church was completed. It is the largest building in the world made from one redwood tree. Robert Ripley, "famed Believe It Or Not cartoonist", used to attend this church with his family when he lived in Santa Rosa. Ripley was the first cartoonist to earn \$1,000,000 and also was born here in Santa Rosa.

Media Release

SANTA ROSA

September 4

A Tree Tour of Juilliard Park will be held leaving from The Church Of One Tree 492 Sonoma Ave. 10 a.m. Free ice cream will be provided. Fee: \$1.50 adults, 75¢ seniors and ages 17 and under. Entrance to the museum is included. Children six and under free.

Sincerely,

John R. Hacku  
Curator



CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

Monthly Report

June 23, 1993

The Church of One Tree was the feature of an article by Les Allen this month in the papers around the San Jose area. Future McClatchy news service stories may follow. The Senior Magazine has promised to write an article for the month of July on the Ripley legend. This should boost our attendance in the next few weeks. The Press Democrat has featured our picture in the Sunday paper. Thank you for all the much needed exposure.

The statistics for this period from May 19 through June 19, 1993 are the best ever for this museum in funds collected.

Admissions: \$676.00  
Sales \$ 70.70  
Donations \$ 33.32

Total \$780.02 Year to date \$2497.67

Adults 294  
Youth 71  
Seniors 142  
Children 33

Total 540 Year to date 2078 people

Attendance compared to previous years at this time:

1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
1374 people	2201 people	2086 people	2021 people	2078 people

Sincerely,

*John R. Hacku*  
John R. Hacku  
Curator

## The Church of One Tree Ripley Memorial Museum

## Monthly Report

July 24, 1993

We have a new post card and it looks very nice. The Cooper Classic post card went on sale this month. The Turner Broadcast Special will be aired the day after Thanksgiving at 8:30 p.m. No filming to date has been shot in Santa Rosa. Don Smith from Atlanta did see the Ripley grave site and took measurements for the special. I will keep you informed as we approach the Thanksgiving date.

Sally Joy will provide a tree walk of Juilliard Park on September 4, 1993. Clover farms will provide free ice cream for the first 125 people. The eagle project is almost complete and the names of those who helped will be in the next report after the project is completed. There are now 50 trees identified and marked.

Robert Burgess visited the museum this week. He is the oldest ice skating participant at the annual Snoopy's Ice Skating Tournament. He was in a 1984 "Believe It Or Not" when he was 77 years old. He skated this week in the tournament at the age of 85.

Statistics for this period June 20 - July 19, 1993

Children 39	Admissions	\$587
Adults 264	Sales	\$ 80.10
Youth 112	Donations	\$ 40.20
Seniors 94		
6 Groups 72	Total	\$707.30

Total 581 people Year to date: \$3,204.97  
2659 people

First 100 days average  
27 people per day  
\$32 per day

Sincerely,

John R. Facke

John R. Hacku  
Curator

THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE  
RIPLEY MEMORIAL MUSEUM

)                   MONTHLY REPORT

THERE WILL BE A TREE TOUR OF JUILLIARD PARK ON SEPTEMBER 4 AT 10 A.M. LED BY SALLY JOY. WE WILL LEAVE FROM THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE AND FREE ICE CREAM WILL BE PROVIDED BY CLOVER FARMS. THE EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT BY TROOP #333 AND 134 IS COMPLETED. THE NEW MAPS HAVE YET TO BE PRINTED BUT WE WILL USE THE OLD FORMS DURING THE TOUR. EAGLE SCOUT BRIAN MANN CALLED DAN NEFF OF THE PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT WHO SUGGESTED SALLY. AN OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT WITH AN INVENTORY WAS COMPLETED BY SALLY AND BRIAN. WHEN THEY COMPARED NOTES 30 STAKES NEEDED REPLACEMENT, 13 NEEDED PAINTING AND TWO NEEDED OTHER WORK. THERE ARE NOW 50 TREES IDENTIFIED IN THE PARK. FIFTEEN HOURS OF VOLUNTEER WORK WAS COMPLETED OVER SEVERAL DAYS BY TWENTY SCOUTS AND OTHER HELPERS. THE NAMES OF THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WERE INVOLVED IN THIS COMMUNITY PROJECT. WE SALUTE YOU!

)                   1. BRIAN MANN                   14. LYLE OLSEN  
2. SALLY JOY                   15. JOSH ATKINS  
3. JOHN HACKU                   16. LINDA MANN  
4. MICHAEL BRAY                   17. NATHAN HAAS  
5. JIM BRAY                   18. BUBBA SUESS  
6. RICHARD HAWES                   19. GREG SHAGWO  
7. CHRIS COWLOMB                   20. EVAN HARMON  
8. CURTIS AVARK  
9. MIKE JUMP  
10. MITCHELL WALLACE  
11. PATRICK JUMP  
12. CODY HALTOM  
13. ROBERT REIHL

THE WORK ON SONOMA AVENUE CONTINUES BUT THE STREET IS NOW AGAIN OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. DURING THE SUMMER TOURISTS HAD TO WALK THROUGH THE PARK TO FIND US. THE STREET WILL LOOK WONDERFUL WHEN THE POLES ARE CUT DOWN AND THE NEW SIDEWALKS ARE COMPLETED.

)                   THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB CONTRIBUTED TIME AND EFFORT TO "DEAD HEADING" THE ROSES. JIM KING WAS AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION THE DAY OF THE CUTTING SO TED ROWE, LYLE KELLER, AND JOHN HACKU WORKED THREE HOURS OF VOLUNTEER TIME IN THE PARK. THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB ALSO PRUNES THE ROSES IN JANUARY AT JUILLIARD PARK AND HELPS AT LUTHER BURBANK GARDENS. THEY HAVE BEEN DOING THIS TRADITION SINCE 1957. JACKSON AND PERKINS DONATED THE FOUR ROSE BEDS AT JUILLIARD PARK OVER THE YEARS.

VISABILITY COMMUNICATIONS, INC. WHICH PRODUCES SPECIAL PROJECTS FOR FILM AND TELEVISION SENT DON SMITH TO SANTA ROSA TO RESEARCH SITES OF ROBERT RIPLEY. JOHN HACKU BROUGHT HIM OUT TO THE GRAVESITE AND THE HOME PLUS THE MUSEUM. THIS IS A PROJECT OF TURNER BROADCASTING FROM ATLANTA. ALL THE SETS WILL BE BUILT IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA. THE SHOW ON ROBERT RIPLEY'S LIFE TO COMMEMORATE HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY WILL AIR FRIDAY NOVEMBER 26 AT 8 OR 8:30 P.M. PLEASE CHECK YOUR LOCAL LISTINGS AS THE DAY APPROACHES. IT WILL BE SEEN NATIONWIDE ON TBS. RIPLEY INTERNATIONAL ASKED FOR COPIESTO BE SENT TO ATLANTA OF BOB'S EARLIER LIFE. THIS WAS COMPLETED WITH NO COST TO THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA. RIPLEY INTERNATIONAL WILL SOON BE MOVING THEIR HEADQUARTERS FROM TORONTO TO SAINT AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA. THE MUSEUM IN KEY WEST JUST OPENED BUT THE MUSEUM IN THE FOUR QUEENS HOTEL HAS OFFICIALLY CLOSED. THERE ARE NOW 20 "BELIEVE IT OR NOT" MUSEUMS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES. THE PRESIDENT OF THE OFFICIAL "BELIEVE IT OR NOT" FAN CLUB WILL BE IN SANTA ROSA FOR THE TREE WALK ON SEPTEMBER 4. THE HEADQUARTERS FOR THIS FAN CLUB IS IN BILLINGS, MONTANA.

THE NEW RIPLEY BOOK IS OUT AND IT IS VERY NICELY PUT TOGETHER. THE TITLE IS "DEAR MR. RIPLEY". IT CAN BE PURCHASED AT YOUR LOCAL BOOK STORE FOR \$19.95. SINCE OUR SEASON IS WINDING DOWN WE WILL NOT STOCK THIS COFFEE TABLE BOOK AT THE MUSEUM. THERE IS ONE COPY LEFT AT BOOKS INC. IF ANYONE WISHES TO PURCHASE THIS YOU CAN ORDER IT THERE OR AT YOUR FAVORITE BOOK STORE.

GEETS VINCENT WROTE AN ARTICLE IN SENIOR MAGAZINE ABOUT OUR MUSEUM AND I AM INCLUDING A COPY WITH THIS REPORT. WE ALSO WERE MENTIONED THIS MONTH IN GAYE LEBARON'S COLUMN. THE Q SECTION OF THE PRESS DEMOCRAT HAS FINALLY LISTED US PLUS WE ARE NOW LISTED IN THE SUNDAY AND FRIDAY SECTIONS OF THE PAPER. THIS IS EXCELLENT COVERAGE FOR THE MUSEUM.

SANDRA GURVIS HAS INFORMED US THAT HER BOOK UNUSUAL MUSEUMS WILL FINALLY BE RELEASED THIS YEAR AND WILL INCLUDE THE RIPLEY MEMORIAL MUSEUM. THE INFORMATION AND PHOTOS OF THE MUSEUM WERE SENT TO HER WITH THE APPROVAL OF RIPLEY INTERNATIONAL. THE NEW YORK COMPANY CAROL PUBLISHING WILL PUT THIS OUT UNDER THE IMPRINT "BIRCH LANE PRESS". (SEE ENCLOSURE)

THERE WAS A FRISBEE TOURNAMENT IN JUILLIARD PARK AND THE COURSE WAS SET UP WITH PERMISSION OF THE PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT. A FUN TIME WAS HAD BY ALL WHO PARTICIPATED. THERE WILL BE FUTURE EVENTS PLANNED AS PEOPLE BECOME MORE AWARE OF THE GOOD QUALITIES THIS PARK HAS TO OFFER.

THERE WILL BE A COMMUNITY MEETING ON AUGUST 23 TO DISCUSS NEW AVENUES OF USE FOR THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE AND JUILLIARD PARK. IT

PAGE 3

WILL BE HELD AT 6 P.M. AND ALL ARE INVITED WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN THIS. HERE ARE THE STATISTICS FOR THE MUSEUM FROM JULY 20-AUG. 18!

ADMISSIONS	\$715.00
SALES	\$98.60
DONATIONS	\$21.83

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TOTAL	\$835.43
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ADULTS	292
YOUTH	120
SENIORS	146
11 GROUPS	132
UNDER 6	29

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TOTAL	719 PEOPLE
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YEAR TO DATE (121 DAYS)

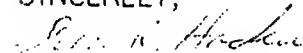
3378 PEOPLE

\$4040.40

AVERAGE 28 PEOPLE PER DAY

\$33.40 PER DAY

SINCERELY,



JOHN R. HACKU  
CURATOR

# FAN CLUB NEWSLETTER

## RIPLEY'S **Believe It or Not!**®

### RIPLEY NEWS

Turner Broadcasting System Productions Inc. has entered into an agreement to produce and distribute a two-hour television special concerning the life of Robert Ripley and celebrating the 75th anniversary of the first Believe It or Not! cartoon. This will air twice during the Thanksgiving Day weekend; Friday evening and Sunday afternoon.

1993 marks the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Robert Ripley, the world's greatest adventurer. This Centennial will offer limitless promotional opportunities. (Readers: If you see something 'new' out in your state/town, please drop us a card so we may pass it along to all subscribers).

Robert Ripley was a television pioneer, broadcasting thirteen shows in 1949! From 1982 to 1985, Columbia Pictures produced 79 one-hour Ripley Believe It or Not! series, and 3 one hour specials for ABC, all hosted by renowned actor, Jack Palance. Still being shown in dozens of countries around the world, these shows in America received an average network share of 12.2 through 19, and an average viewership of 10.14 million households. The series was recently sold to the new Science Fiction Network and will be shown throughout North America starting in the fall of 1993.

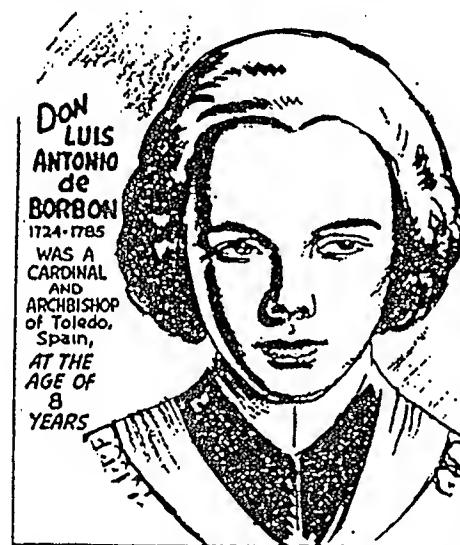
In the spring of 1994, there will be a traveling show entitled "Dear Mr. Ripley". The show will feature the photographs and letters in the Dear Mr. Ripley book. The show will travel around the United States and will be operated by Curatorial Assistance.

Schanes Products & Services is now publishing weekly comic books utilizing the cartoon archives. (The second set of these comic's are now out. Our suggestion is to take the Schanes address from inside the front cover to your nearest newsstand or comic store and see if they will order them in for you).

The Key West Florida Museum is now open. The address is: Ripley's Believe It or Not!, 527 Duval Street, Key West, Florida 33040.

© 1993 RIPLEY ENTERTAINMENT INC.

An independent Film Production Company has optioned the motion picture rights to Ripley's Believe It or Not! and along with a team of writers, created an original comedy-action-adventure screenplay which revolves around the fictitious search to find the one oddity which eluded Robert Ripley.



Editorial Samra in Mexico is producing biweekly full colour magazines utilizing Ripley materials.

Little, Brown has released a first-ever coffee table size publication of photos from the Ripley archives entitled "Dear Mr. Ripley".

A new franchise museum is scheduled to open in Branson, Missouri in 1994.

Ripley's continues to lend its world famous trademark to a variety of merchandising and marketing application. Current uses range from the sale of Ripley's Believe It or Not! video cassettes, to an interactive toy robot with Tiger Electronics, to a promotional campaign for the Louisiana and Maryland State Lotteries.

Believe It or Not!  
and Ripley's Believe It or Not!  
are registered trade marks of Ripley  
Entertainment Inc.

The following article was submitted by: John R. Hacku, Curator of the Church of One Tree, Ripley Memorial Museum. Article originally printed by the Santa Rosa Recreation & Parks Department.

## THE CHURCH BUILT OF ONE TREE

(From the History of the First Baptist Church at the time of the Golden Jubilee in 1902.)

"The Church Built of One Tree" was the headline caption in the great daily papers which startled the Baptist people, then proud of their new church on "B" Street, into the realization that they were the possessors of a very unique and original building soon to be known the world over as "The Church Built of One Tree". That it came to them as a surprise is due to the fact that the idea was entirely the inception of Mr. Rufus Murphy, the millman at Guerneville who furnished the lumber, and the Church knew nothing about it until the building was completed and the announcement made in the papers.

For this reason, some claimed to be incredulous and some even disputed it. Only a few years before the present pastor came upon the field a refutation of the story was printed in the Pacific Baptist. But the story went abroad, Eastern magazines and papers published cuts and descriptions and gave it a wide circulation. Yet a few were still persistent in their disbelief. The writer, shortly after his settlement here began an investigation of the facts and found them to be substantially correct, as published.

T.J. Butts, a very reputable attorney of this city, made an affidavit that he was at the time of the building of said church in the employ of the late Rufus Murphy, and that he knew all the facts concerning the order of the lumber placed by the church and the filling of the same at Mr. Murphy's direction. Mr. Butts' affidavit, which is published under this head, is corroborated by other employees in the mill and old settlers in Guerneville.

One Sunday morning a few years since the affidavit was read from the pulpit, the testimony was accepted by the most skeptical and today no one doubts or disputes the correctness of this statement, "The Church Built of One Tree". So it stands today the only church in the world that can make such a statement. We make an exception, however, of the floor, which is pine.

The tree grew near Guerneville in Sonoma County, CA and when sawed, yielded 78,000 feet of lumber.

The Church is Gothic in style, finished with massive buttresses on the outside and heavy beams on the inside. The main auditorium is 60 x 37 with a seating capacity of 300. The parlor is 30 x 20, the pastor's study is 20 x 16. The tower on the southwest corner is 70 feet high.

The congregation which worshiped in this edifice approximated 500, and is the oldest organization in the city, having been organized in 1852.

The Church has been moved from its original location to Juilliard Park.

Join the folks in Santa Rosa for a "Tree Walk Thru the Park" on 4 September 1993. Contact John Hacku at Church of One Tree/Ripley Museum at (707) 524-5233 for details.



Visit this Church/Museum March 1 - October 23, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday - Sunday. Adults \$1.50, Youths (7-17) .75, Seniors .75.

In the museum you will see a full size, lifelike wax figure of Ripley. Slippers and Chinese robe Ripley wore at home. The battered old suitcase plastered with travel stickers...safari helmet...handball championship trophy...original Ripley cartoon...photographs of Ripley with celebrities.

Also, an area is set aside highlighting the colorful history of Santa Rosa and Sonoma County.

A third section is devoted to a pictorial history of the Church of One Tree, showing construction and detailing the building's move to its present location in Juilliard Park.

\* There is also a Church of One Tree located in Linete, Sweden that has been featured in a

# COMMUNITY life

## EVENTS

### Players going to Epcot Center

A group of Sonoma County youths, Performance Place Players, has been selected to appear at Disney World's Epcot Center on Sept. 24.

The performers were selected based on a video tape submitted for consideration. But to make the trip, the group needs to raise money.

A fund-raising event, "Shakespeare in the Vineyard," will be at 4 p.m. Saturday at Rodney Strong Vineyards. The program will involve food, wine and song with a performance of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Other events also are being held. For details, call 578-8999.

Debl Faran said the group represents the only musical theater performing arts group made up of up to 30 Sonoma County children from 8 to 15 years old. Most are accomplished vocalists and dancers.

The performers will attend the Disney University Master Classes in Entertainment at Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

### Flea market items sought

Donations are being sought for the Sept. 3 and 4 flea market of West County Community Services at 15999 River Road in Guerneville.

The flea market will raise money for the services' support of community youth, senior and homeless programs. West Sonoma County programs of West County Community Services have been hurt by state and county budget cuts.

Items can be donated at the center in Guerneville. Businesses also have been asked to consider donating a new item for the flea market. Items can be donated from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays at the center, or arranged by calling the center, 887-2226.

### Tour of Juilliard Park trees

Juilliard Park's unique trees will be noted during a special tour of the park from 10 a.m. to noon Sept. 4 starting at the Church of One Tree, 492 Sonoma Ave., Santa Rosa, on the edge of the park.

The tour will be led by Sally Joy for the Santa Rosa Park and Recreation Department. The free event include ice cream provided by Clover Farms. More than 50 newly-labeled trees of rare varieties will be visited. Phone: 524-5233.

## BENEFITS

### Music for music programs

Healdsburg Kiwanis Club is sponsoring "A Weekend at the Winery" Saturday and Sunday as a benefit for Healdsburg Junior and Senior high schools' music programs.

Lake Sonoma Winery, 9990 Dry Creek Road, in the upper Dry Creek Valley, is the setting for the benefit, which features a wide selection of musical performances. Hours will be 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. The cost is \$10 per person.

RIPLEY MEMORIAL MUSEUM  
MONTHLY REPORT

September 20, 1993

THE STATISTICS FOR THIS YEAR ARE BETTER THAN THE 1987, 1988, 1989, STATISTICS FOR ATTENDANCE AND YEAR TO DATE SALES, DONATIONS AND ADMISSIONS. THE MUSEUM IS AHEAD OF TOTAL MONEY INTAKE FROM 1992 AT THIS TIME ALSO. THE RECENT ARTICLE IN THE PRESS DEMOCRAT SHOULD INCREASE OUR ATTENDANCE THROUGH THE END OF THE SEASON.

IT WAS SUGGESTED BY BILL MONTGOMERY THAT WE KEEP THE MUSEUM OPEN UNTIL THE OCTOBER 31, 1993 DATE TO BE IN CONCERT WITH THE LUTHER BURBANK HOME. ORIGINALLY THE CONTRACT WAS FOR OCTOBER 24! SINCE THIS IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP THE MUSEUM OPEN ANOTHER WEEK I WILL PROVIDE TOURS THE LAST WEEK OF OCTOBER WITH NO ADDITIONAL CHARGES TO THE CITY FOR THAT WEEK.

THE STATISTICS FOR THIS PERIOD AUGUST 19 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 20:

ADMISSIONS	\$669.25	ADULTS	279
DONATIONS	\$26.00	YOUTH	79
SALES	\$66.50	SENIORS	176
<hr/>		8 GROUPS	96
TOTAL	\$761.75	UNDER 8 YRS	23
<hr/>		TOTAL	653 PEOPLE

YEAR TO DATE 4031 PEOPLE  
TOTAL \$ \$4802.15

SINCERELY,

  
JOHN R. HACKE  
CURATOR

THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE  
RIPLEY MEMORIAL MUSEUM  
OCTOBER 31, 1993

THE SEASON ENDED WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FALL SHOW WHICH WILL BE TELEVISED ON NOVEMBER 26, 1993. JOHN HACHU HELPED IN THE RESEARCH OF THE DOCUMENTARY. TBS DID NOT PAY ANYTHING EXTRA AND THERE WAS NO CITY FUNDS USED IN THE PRODUCTION WHICH WILL BE SEEN NATIONWIDE ON NOVEMBER 26, AT 8:30 P.M. ET TIME FROM ATLANTA'S TBS. WE ARE EAGER TO SEE THIS BIOGRAPHY OF RIPLEY. (SEE ENCLOSED ARTICLE)

THE MUSEUM IS CLOSED FOR THE SEASON. WE WILL OPEN AGAIN ON APRIL 1, 1994. USUALLY ABOUT THIS TIME THE CITY CLEANS OUT THE GUTTERS OF THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE.

THE POLICE HAVE SUGGESTED THAT A NEW DOOR BE PLACED ON THE SIDE ENTRANCE WITH BETTER SECURITY. TWO OFFICERS HAVE REQUESTED MORE LIGHTING FOR THE WILLIARD PARK AREA TOWARD THE WOODEN BRIDGE AT THE FRONT OF THE PARK NEAR THE SANTA ROSA AVENUE AND IN BACK OF THE ROSE GARDEN AMONGST THE REDWOODS. THESE WERE REQUESTED UPDATES FOR CONSIDERATION.

THESE ARE THE FINAL STATISTICS FROM SEPTEMBER 22-THE CLOSING:

ADMISSIONS	\$560	ADULTS	239
SALES	\$ 22.13	GROUPS	96
DONATIONS	\$ 47.03	SENIORS	130
		YOUTH	28
		CHILD	34
TOTAL	\$649.15	TOTAL	587 PEOPLE

TOTAL FIGURES FOR 1993 SEASON EQUALS LAST YEAR'S TOTAL OF \$5390.72 WITH A FINAL TOTAL OF \$5389.15. THIS IS BETTER THAN THE 1987, 1988, 1989, AND 1990 SEASON. OUR YEARLY ATTENDANCE WAS ONLY 4615 PEOPLE. THE ROAD IN FRONT OF THE MUSEUM WAS CLOSED DUE TO CONSTRUCTION DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS. WE HAD ARTICLES WRITTEN ON US IN THE PRESS DEMOCRAT, SENIOR MAGAZINE, THE CHRONICLE, AND THE SACRAMENTO BEE. WE WERE FEATURED ON BAY AREA BACKROADS AND RADIO STATION KZST. WE APPEAR WEEKLY IN THE Q SECTION OF THE PRESS DEMOCRAT AND THE WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT SECTION. WE WILL ALSO APPEAR IN A SONOMA CALENDAR AND THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MAP. THERE IS NO CHARGE TO THE CITY FOR THIS.

CHURCH OF ONE TREE/RIPLEY MEMORIAL MUSEUM  
492 SONOMA AVENUE  
SANTA ROSA, CA. 95401  
(707) 524-5233

*Copy*

APRIL 29, 1994

MS. LISA PACELLA  
TRADEMARKS ADMINISTRATOR  
RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT!®  
5728 MAJOOR BOULEVARD  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA  
32819

RE: RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT MERCHANDISE

DEAR MS. LISA PACELLA:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER WITH REGARDS TO THE RIPLEY MERCHANDISE. IT WAS GOOD TO SPEAK WITH YOU AND MR. NORM DYSKA ON THE PHONE. THE T-SHIRTS WERE MADE BY A LOCAL ARTIST THREE YEARS AGO AND WERE FOR PROMOTION (24 T-SHIRTS). THE ARTIST WHO DID THESE LEFT THE AREA. SINCE THE COPYRIGHT WAS NOT NOTICABLE NO MORE WERE REQUESTED. SOME PEOPLE OFFERED DONATIONS TO THE MUSEUM FOR THE T-SHIRTS (ABOUT 5 PEOPLE). I SENT "BELIEVE IT OR NOT EXECUTIVES SAMPLES. MR. BOB WHITEMAN AND MR. EDWARD MEYER RECEIVED THE SHIRTS IN THE MAIL. THERE ARE NO MORE SHIRTS AVAILABLE. THERE ARE NO PLANS AT THIS TIME TO ORDER MORE.

I AM SENDING YOU THE RIPLEY RELATED ITEMS THAT WE ARE OFFERING THIS YEAR. THE FOUR RIPLEY PAPERBACKS (ODD PLACES, WILD ANIMALS, WEIRD INVENTIONS AND DISCOVERIES, AND STRANGE COINCIDENCES) ARE BEING SOLD AT \$3.50 A PIECE. WE DO NOT SELL MANY OF THESE. WE ALSO OFFER THE RIPLEY GUIDE WHICH IS VERY POPULAR. WE SELL THIS FOR \$1. COOPER CLASSICS DESIGNED A POSTCARD OF THE CHURCH LAST YEAR. WE ARE OFFERING THIS FOR .30 I AM ENCLOSING A COPY OF THIS CARD. "COOPER CLASSICS" DID THIS ON THERE OWN. I DISCOVERED THE CARDS FOR SALE IN A HALLMARK STORE ONE DAY.

THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE WHICH WAS MADE FAMOUS IN THE RIPLEY CARTOON WAS BOB RIPLEY'S HOMETOWN CHURCH. WE ALSO SELL A HISTORY WITH REGARDS TO ROBERT RIPLEY'S HOMETOWN CONGREGATION AND THE STORY OF THE ONE REDWOOD TREE THAT WAS CUT DOWN TO BUILD THIS OLD

RESEARCH ADDED ON AT THE END OF THE BOOK. THERE IS AN ACCOUNT THAT BOB RIPLEY'S FATHER HELPED BUILD THIS CHURCH WHEN HE FIRST MOVED TO SANTA ROSA. BOB RIPLEY "BELIEVE IT OR NOT" ATTENDED THIS CHURCH FOR YEARS AND WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN SAVING THE REMAINING RELIC. (HALF OF THE BUILDING WAS NOT SAVED IN THE MOVE ACROSS TOWN IN 1957). TODAY IT RESTS ON JUILLIARD PARK.

THANK YOU FOR CONTACTING ME AND GIVE MY REGARDS TO THE FOLKS IN ORLANDO. IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER CONCERNS DON'T HESITATE TO WRITE OUR MUSEUM.

SINCERELY,



JOHN R. HACKU  
CURATOR

cc/ ERIC Sargeant

CHURCH OF ONE TREE/RIPLEY MEMORIAL MUSEUM  
492 SONOMA AVENUE  
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA  
(707)524-5233  
SPRING 1994 REPORT

MAY 1, 1994

THE SEASON BEGAN ON APRIL 1, 1994 WITH THE SAME HOURS AND TIMES AS THE LUTHER BURBANK HOME AND GARDENS. IN MARCH 1994 WE PARTICIPATED IN THE PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT'S ARBOR DAY CELEBRATIONS.

THE RIPLEY MOVIE DISTRIBUTED BY TURNER BROADCASTING WAS AIRED NATIONWIDE LAST NOVEMBER AND REPEATED (ACCORDING TO SOME ACCOUNTS) THIS SPRING. SANTA ROSA DOES NOT RECEIVE THIS STATION ON THE "POST NEWSWEEK" CABLE BUT ROHNERT PARK AND OTHER CALIFORNIA TOWNS AS WELL AS OTHER STATIONS AROUND THE WORLD DID VIEW THE MADE FOR TELEVISION SPECIAL. THE EDUCATIONAL SECTION WHICH PERTAINS TO RIPLEY IN SANTA ROSA WILL BE OCCASIONALLY DISPLAYED AT THE MUSEUM IF THE VISITOR WISHES TO SEE IT. A COPY FOR THE PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

BOB CLARKE WHO ILLUSTRATES FOR "MAD" MAGAZINE AND BEGAN WITH THE RIPLEY CARTOON VISITED THE MUSEUM THIS WEEKEND. HE DOES APPEAR IN THE TELEVISION RIPLEY SPECIAL SEVERAL TIMES REMEMBERING THE FAMOUS CARTOONIST FROM SANTA ROSA. MARC COHEN WAS WITH HIM AND HE WILL BE DISPLAYING HIS PERSONAL RIPLEY MATERIAL AND DRAWINGS AT HIS SPECIAL CARTOONIST EVENT THIS FEBRUARY IN THE SONOMA COUNTY MUSEUM. THIS SOUNDS LIKE A FUN EVENT. THE RIPLEY MUSEUM CLOSES THIS YEAR ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 30, 1994.

THERE WILL BE A TREE WALK ON MAY 7, 1994 BY BOB HORNBACK. THE WALK WILL LEAVE FROM THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE AND WILL BEGIN AT 11 A.M. BOB IS A HORTICULTURIST AND WAS RECENTLY PUBLISHED IN A HORTICULTURAL MAGAZINE. THE EVENT WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE PRESS DEMOCRAT SOMETIME THIS WEEK.

THE ROSES IN JUILLIARD PARK LOOK VERY GOOD. ONE LOCAL LADY WHO FREQUENTS THE PARK WAS RECENTLY SEEN TAKING APHIDS OFF EACH PLANT WITH SOAPY WATER. BELIEVE IT OR NOT, NOBODY SEEMS TO KNOW THE NAME OF THIS MYSTERY LADY.

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CHURCH OF ONE TREE/RIPLEY MEMORIAL MUSEUM

ON A RECENT TRIP TO NEW ENGLAND CURATOR JOHN HACKU WAS ABLE TO LOCATE A CRUCIFIX FISH WHICH WAS BROUGHT BACK FROM THE SOUTH SEAS AND DONATE IT TO THE MUSEUM HERE. TODAY THERE ARE MANY OF THESE IN NOVELTY SHOPS AROUND THE WORLD. BOB RIPLEY HAD DISPLAYED THE STORY OF THIS ODDITY IN 1933 DURING HIS CHICAGO ODDITORIUM DAYS. NOW THE MUSEUM HAS IT'S OWN CRUCIFIX FISH ON DISPLAY INSIDE THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE IN SANTA ROSA.

THE TRADEMARKS ADMINISTRATOR FOR "RIPLEY'S" REQUESTED A LIST OF RIPLEY ITEMS WE MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC. THIS SEASON WE WILL HAVE AVAILABLE THE FOUR SMALL POCKET BOOKS CELEBRATING BOB RIPLEY'S ONE HUNDRETH BIRTHDAY. THESE ARE OBTAINED FROM RIPLEY INTERNATIONAL (IAN FROM SAN FRANCISCO'S RIPLEY MUSEUM PROVIDES THEM AT COST A LITTLE MORE THAN \$1.50 PER BOOK) WE SELL THEM FOR \$3.50 TO INTERESTED FANS OF THE BELIEVE IT OR NOT CARTOONS. WE ALSO PROVIDE A HISTORY BOOK ON THE CHURCH FOR \$2 AND A GUIDE BOOK FOR \$1. THE VARIOUS POSTCARDS THIS YEAR ARE FROM CALIFORNIA HIGHWAYS AND COOPER'S CLASSICS. THESE CARDS SELL FOR \$.30 EACH. (ENCLOSED IS A LETTER WITH THAT INFORMATION SENT TO "RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT INTERNATIONAL WHICH IS NOW HEADQUATERED IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA. THE WAX MUSEUMS, THE GUINNESS MUSEUM OF WORLD RECORDS, AND THE BELIEVE IT OR NOT MUSEUMS ARE ALL PART OF THE SAME COMPANY. I SPOKE WITH NORM DYSKA BY PHONE WITH REGARDS TO FUTURE OPENINGS OF "BELIEVE IT OR NOT" MUSEUMS AND THEY PLAN A NEW ONE IN THAILAND, THE PHILLIPINES, AND OTHER PLACES. THE NEW ONE JUST OPENED IN KEY WEST, FLORIDA AND KOREA. 21 MUSEUMS IN ALL.

THE NEWSPAPERS WERE SENT OUR SEASON INFORMATION. THE KID KONNECTION, THE PRESS DEMOCRAT, THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE AND OTHER PAPERS WERE CONTACTED. THE 2000 BROCHURES WERE RECEIVED AT THE MUSEUM FROM THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND SOME OF THEM WERE DISTRIBUTED TO LOCAL HOTELS AND MUSEUMS PLUS THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND THE VISITOR CENTERS.

SUNSET MAGAZINE HAS EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN DOING AN ARTICLE ON OUR MUSEUM AND THE JUILLIARD PARK. THEY ARE CONSIDERING DOING A FUTURE STORY ON US. MORE ON THIS AS IT DEVELOPES.

A LOCAL JOURNALIST, GEETS VINCENT, WROTE AN ARTICLE AND SUBMITTED

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CHURCH OF ONE TREE/RIPLEY MEMORIAL MUSEUM

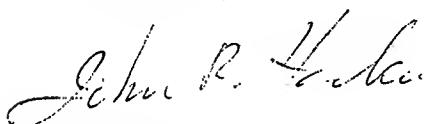
IT TO VARIOUS PUBLICATIONS. SHE IS A FREELANCE WRITER AND RECENTLY HAS ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN "SENIOR" MAGAZINE. HER ARTICLE ON THE MUSEUM WAS PRINTED IN THE 1993 JULY EDITION OF "SENIOR".

THE TOTALS FOR THE SEASON THUS FAR ARE:

ADULTS	270	ADMISSIONS:	\$597.50
SENIORS	94	SALES	103.40
YOUTHS	76	DONATIONS:	25.87
10 GROUPS	120		
CHILDREN	46	TOTAL	\$726.77

TOTAL 606 PEOPLE

SINCERELY,



JOHN R. HACKU  
CURATOR

copy cc/enc S.

THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE/ ROBERT L. "BELIEVE IT OR NOT!"<sup>®</sup>  
RIPLEY MEMORIAL MUSEUM

MONTHLY REPORT  
JUNE 1994

THE HUMAN RACE TOOK PLACE ON MAY 7, 1994 AND WE PARTICIPATED. THE VOLUNTEERS RAISED AND DONATED \$55 FOR THE DAY'S EVENT. THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE WILL RECEIVE FROM THE VOLUNTEER CENTER MOST OF THAT DONATION. THE ROSE PARADE FOUND CUB SCOUT TROOP #127 MARCHING FROM THE FRONT OF THE MUSEUM WHERE THE DEN OF CUB SCOUTS MET. GOLD FISH WERE PLACED IN THE PONDS AT JUILLIARD PARK AFTER GETTING THE OKAY FROM THE GROUNDS KEEPERS DENISE AND CHRISTINE. A FUN TIME WAS HAD BY ALL AND LATER THE CUB SCOUT LEADERS MADE A SIZEABLE DONATION TO THE MUSEUM FOR THAT DAY. A BANNER OF THE MUSEUM WAS CARRIED BY THE SCOUTS AS PART OF THEIR CONTINGENT. CURATOR JOHN HACKU DONATED \$100 TO THE CUB SCOUTS IN MEMORY OF "THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE/ROBERT L." BELIEVE IT OR NOT<sup>®</sup> RIPLEY MEMORIAL MUSEUM. SCOUT LEADERS MELTZER AND CUMMING CONVINCED OUR CURATOR TO MARCH IN THE PARADE WITH THEM AND THE MUSEUM WAS RE-OPENED BEFORE 1 P.M. AFTER THE PARADE. THE CITY WAS NOT CHARGED FOR ANY OF THIS PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITY.

THE HEADQUARTERS CONTACTED US TO UPDATE THE NAME OF THE MUSEUM TO THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE/ ROBERT L. "BELIEVE IT OR NOT"<sup>®</sup> RIPLEY MEMORIAL MUSEUM. DUE TO NEW RULES AND REGULATIONS FROM THE GOVERNMENT ALL OF OUR LISTINGS WILL BE CHANGED. THE REGISTERED TRADEMARK MUST APPEAR WHEN LISTING "BELIEVE IT OR NOT!"<sup>®</sup> THE STATISTICS FOR THIS MONTH ARE AS FOLLOWS.

TOTALS FOR MAY

1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
\$628.15	\$508.55	\$649.05	\$562.82	\$573.82	\$638.55

ADMISSIONS	\$497.25	ADULTS	220
SALES	90.10	YOUTH	50
DONATIONS	51.20	SENIOR	83
<hr/>		12 GROUPS	144
TOTAL	\$638.55	UNDER AGE 6	20

SINCERELY, *John*  
JOHN R. HACKU  
CURATOR

TOTAL 517 PEOPLE

THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE  
ROBERT L. "BELIEVE IT OR NOT"  
RIPLEY MEMORIAL MUSEUM  
1994  
JULY REPORT

ONE OF THE NEWEST PRODUCTS OFFERED BY RIPLEY'S IS THE COLLECTOR TELEPHONE DEBIT CARD WITH "BELIEVE IT OR NOT" DRAWINGS BY SANTA ROSA'S BOB RIPLEY ON THE CARD. THESE CARDS COST \$12 AND WHEN YOU PURCHASE THE CARD, A TWENTY MINUTE PHONE CALL CAN BE MADE TO ANYWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES. THESE CARDS ARE NOT FOR SALE AT OUR MUSEUM BUT CAN BE PURCHASED BY WORLDWIDE GLOBEL TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORP. AT 1-800-929-4301.

THE MARCH 15, 1994, NATIONAL ENQUIRER FEATURED AN ARTICLE ENTITLED: " BELIEVE IT OR NOT...WACKY MUSEUMS HAVE EVERYTHING FROM A SEVEN TON BALL OF STRING TO SHRUNKEN HEADS". IF ANYONE HAS A COPY OF THIS ISSUE PLEASE CONTACT THE MUSEUM.

RIPLEY'S IS CURRENTLY LOOKING AT POTENTIAL MUSEUM SITES IN: JAKARTA, MANILA, THAILAND, ATLANTIC CITY, AND NEW YORK. THE MAIN HEADQUARTERS IS NOW OFFICIALLY MOVED FROM TORONTO TO ORLANDO, FLORIDA. ED MEYER COMMUNICATED TO OUR MUSEUM RECENTLY THAT A NATIONALLY TELEVISED "ROBERT L. "BELIEVE IT OR NOT" RIPLEY SHOW WILL BE SET FOR RELEASE SOMETIME THIS SUMMER OR EARLY AUTUMN.

RECENTLY BURT WOLF AND HIS PRODUCTION TEAM FROM NEW YORK CITY FILMED A SEGMENT FOR THE UP-COMING SPECIAL ON SONOMA COUNTY. THE FILMING OF THE MUSEUM AND THE LUTHER BURBANK HOME AND GARDENS WERE COMPLETED IN ONE AFTERNOON. MR. WOLF HAS THREE SHOWS WITH THE TURNER BROADCAST NETWORK ON TBS, CNN, AND TNT. THE SHOWING NATIONWIDE WILL BE IN THE FUTURE. THE SONOMA COUNTY VISITORS AND CONVENTION BUREAU IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS CONNECTION. THANK YOU MS. JAMIE DOUGLAS AND YOUR STAFF FOR THIS GREAT PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE.

RECENTLY TWO DONATIONS WERE MADE TO THE MUSEUM. A PLAQUE OF A 1932 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SIGN (RIPLEY RECEIVED THE KEYS TO SANTA ROSA IN A CEREMONY IN TOWN IN 1932). WE ALSO RECEIVED A "LEWIS SCHOOL" REUNION AUTOGRAPHED POSTER. RIPLEY WAS IN TOWN A YEAR LATER FOR THE LEWIS SCHOOL REUNION ACCORDING TO MR. RICK DANIELS AND SIGNED THE POSTER WITH OTHER CLASSMATES "BELIEVE IT OR NOT"! THANK YOU MR. RICK DANIELS.

SANDRA GURVIS HAS NOW OFFICIALLY PUBLISHED HER BOOK ON "101 OFF THE WALL MUSEUMS" BY CAROL BOOKS. IT IS READY FOR RELEASE. THE BOOK COSTS \$14.95 AND IS AVAILABLE FROM CAROL BOOKS. THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE IS ONE OF THE MUSEUMS EXPLORED IN THE BOOK. SANDRA IS A SUCCESSFUL PROMINENT WRITER FROM OHIO WHO INTERVIEWED CURATOR JOHN HACKU BY PHONE TWO YEARS AGO FOR THE INFORMATION ON RIPLEY AND THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE.

A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM FOR THE JUILLIARD PARK AREA HAS BEEN SET UP WITH THE POLICE AND THE NEIGHBORS AROUND THE MUSEUM. BILL MONTGOMERY AND OTHER OFFICIALS FROM THE PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT WILL BE INVOLVED MONTHLY WITH THE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PARK AND THE AREA. PLANS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE ARE ALSO IN THE DEVELOPMENT STAGES. THE CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD, THE PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, AND THE TOWN COUNCIL ARE BUSY WORKING ON CRUCIAL DECISIONS WHICH WILL IMPROVE THE FUTURE OF SANTA ROSA.

THE STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE WERE JUST SHY OF A TEN YEAR RECORD. THE PRESS DEMOCRAT HAS NOT YET LISTED OUR MUSEUM IN IT'S WEEKLY COMMUNITY CAENDAR DISPISTE NUMEROUS MAILINGS AND PRESS RELEASES. WE WILL KEEP TRYING TO GET LISTED THIS YEAR. THE PRESS HAS BEEN GOOD TO US THESE PAST FEW YEARS. THE PEOPLE AT THE VARIOUS TOURIST INFORMATION CENTERS DO A GOOD JOB OF DIRECTING TOURISTS TO OUR MUSEUM. THE LUTHER BURBANK HOME AND GARDENS DO A FANTASTIC JOB DIRECTING PEOPLE TO OUR PLACE.

THE STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

256 ADULTS	\$604.50	ADMISSIONS
17 CHILDREN UNDER 7)	\$111.40	SALES
134 SENIORS	71.10	DONATIONS
80 YOUTH		
96 (8 GROUPS)		

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583 PEOPLE	TOTALS	\$787.00	YEAR TO DATE	\$2152.32
			APRIL 1- JULY 1	

1994 DAILY AVERAGE \$33.11

THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE  
ROBERT L. "BELIEVE IT OR NOT"  
RIPLEY MEMORIAL MUSEUM  
AUGUST REPORT

AUGUST 7, 1994

THE HERITAGE DAYS CELEBRATIONS ARE HERE AND THE RIPLEY MEMORIAL MUSEUM WILL PARTAKE IN THE FESTIVITIES. THE MUSEUM WILL SHOW THE VIDEO ON "THE NATIONAL ANTHEM" WHICH DEPICTS HOW AN EX-BALL PLAYER FROM SANTA ROSA (BOB RIPLEY) CHANGED HISTORY WITH A CARTOON. THIS WILL SHOW THROUGH OCTOBER. IT WAS A CARTOON DRAWN IN 1929 BY RIPLEY THAT SPURRED THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO SEND PETITIONS FOR THE OFFICIAL NATIONAL ANTHEM. WE WILL ALSO HAVE A TABLE AT HAMPTON WOODS FOR THE AUGUST 28TH HERITAGE DAY EVENT.

NIPPON TELEVISION OF JAPAN PLANS TO DO A DOCUMENTARY OF BOB RIPLEY THIS AUGUST AND MAY SOON SEND A CAMERA CREW TO OUR MUSEUM. A CONTRACT WITH RIPLEY ENTERTAINMENT INC. HAS BEEN SIGNED. THE 15 MINUTE PIECE WILL BE AIRED OVER JAPANESE PUBLIC TELEVISION.

THE "DEAR MR. RIPLEY: TREASURES FROM THE RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT! <sup>®</sup> ARCHIVES WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM CURATORIAL ASSISTANCE, INC. OF PASADENA. THE SONOMA COUNTY MUSEUM HAS EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN CO-SPONSORING THIS DISPLAY. THE SONOMA COUNTY MUSEUM HAS THE INSURANCE AND HUMIDITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DISPLAY. ALONG WITH THE PUBLICATION OF A LITTLE BROWN & COMPANY/BULFINCH, BOOK OF THE SAME TITLE, "DEAR MR. RIPLEY" IS SCHEDULED TO RECEIVE MAJOR MEDIA SUPPORT FROM NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO AND TELEVISION. IN 1994 A FEATURE MOTION PICTURE ON THE LIFE OF ROBERT RIPLEY WILL BE RELEASED BY TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX, ALONG WITH INTERACTIVE COMPACT DISC TITLES FROM PHILIPS AND SONY. A SERIES OF ONE-HOUR TELEVISION SPECIALS IS ALSO PLANNED BY FOX TELEVISION.

THE STATISTICS FOR THIS MONTH ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(10) GROUPS	120 PEOPLE	ADMISSIONS	\$709
ADULTS	315	SALES	121.20
YOUTH	128	DONATIONS	25.95
SENIOR	121		
CHILD	25		
TOTAL	710 PEOPLE	TOTAL	\$856.15

THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE  
ROBERT L. BELIEVE IT OR NOT   
RIPLEY MEMORIAL MUSEUM  
MONTHLY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 9, 1994

THE END OF THE SUMMER BRINGS TOURISTS FROM SAUDI ARABIA, IRELAND, AND PETALUMA TO OUR DOORS. THE SEASON IS WINDING DOWN AFTER OUR PARTICIPATION IN HERITAGE DAYS. THE PLANNING MEETING FOR NEXT YEAR'S INVOLVEMENT WAS HELD IN THE MUSEUM ON SEPTEMBER 7 WITH CITY COUNCILMAN DAVE BERTO AS DIRECTOR OF THE MEETING. A FINE BARBECUE WAS HELD IN THE JUILLARD PARK AND ALL THOSE IN ATTENDANCE HAD A DELIGHTFUL EVENING.

BILL MONTGOMERY OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT HAS INFORMED US OF A MARRIAGE RENEWAL OF 50 YEARS TO TAKE PLACE ON MAY 11, 1995 SO OUR NEXT YEAR CALENDAR IS ALREADY BEGINNING TO SEE EVENTS BEING PLANNED. OUR SEASON OFFICIALLY ENDS THIS OCTOBER 30.

WE WILL HAVE AN ANSWERING MACHINE TO TAKE CALLS AND SET UP NEXT YEAR'S SCHEDULE THROUGH THE WINTER AS USUAL. THE SUMMER WAS ONE OF OUR BUSIEST AND ONLY 1991 SHOWED MORE PROCEEDS. IT ALSO BROUGHT NIPPON TELEVISION TO COMPLETE A JAPANESE DOCUMENTARY ON ROBERT RIPLEY. THE SHOW WAS FILMED IN BUENA PARK AND NEW YORK AND HEDAH MAYUCHI AND HARRIS SOLOMON CALLED SEVERAL TIMES FOR INFORMATION ON THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ROBERT RIPLEY

THIS MONTH'S PROCEEDS ARE AS FOLLOWS.

ADULTS	315
YOUTH	81
SENIORS	147
GROUPS	144 (12 GROUPS OF 12)
UNDER 6	33

TOTAL 720 PEOPLE      YEAR TO DATE FROM APRIL 1ST- 3136 PEOPLE

ADMISSIONS	\$746.25
SALES	99.60
DONATIONS	120.42

TOTAL \$974.27    YEAR TO DATE \$3,962.74  
THIS YEAR WE BEGAN OUR SEASON IN APRIL INSTEAD OF MARCH.

THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE  
ROBERT L. "BELIEVE IT OR NOT" (R)  
RIPLEY MEMORIAL MUSEUM

MONTHLY REPORT  
OCTOBER 1, 1994

THE SEASON HAS ONE MONTH TO GO FOR 1994 AND WE HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN SOME EXCITING PROJECTS. "BURT WOLF'S TABLE" WAS AN EXCITING SHOW THAT FEATURED SONOMA COUNTY INTERNATIONALLY IN A SHOW FIRST AIRED FROM THE TBS AND OTHER PUBLIC BROADCASTING STATIONS AUGUST 26, 1994. THE SEGMENT ON "LUTHER BURBANK" WITH AN EXTENSIVE INTERVIEW WITH CHERYL HARRIS WAS ALSO INCLUDED IN THE HALF HOUR SPECIAL. THE COPY WAS RECEIVED FROM NEW YORK ONLY TO BE GIVEN TO CHANNEL 50 AND THE GREATER VISITORS AND CONFERENCE BUREAU WHO PLAN TO PRODUCE A SPECIAL CHANNEL 50 VIDEO ON SANTA ROSA. SLIDES AND OTHER VIDEO ON THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE WERE LENT TO THEM FOR THE PROJECT. THIS PROJECT WILL BE WORKED ON THROUGH OCTOBER.

A MR. RICHARD NORMAN WHO WAS PART OF A RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT IN 1951 DROPPED IN TO THE MUSEUM THIS MONTH. HIS STORY INVOLVED "BREAD UPON THE WATER" HE DONATED HIS OWN BLOOD AND RECEIVED IT BACK WHEN HE GOT BURNED IN THE SERVICE

CITY COUNCILMAN DAVE BERTO AND CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD MEMBER TOM STEWART HAVE SUGGESTED A PROJECT WHICH WOULD MOVE AND UPGRADE THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE. THE PLANS WILL BE DEVELOPED OVER THE WINTER BUT TOM STEWART, AN ENGINEER WITH THE BOARD, HINTS THAT IT MIGHT BE A FUN PROJECT. ART VOLKERTS (PAST EDITOR OF THE PRESS DEMOCRAT AND ONCE CHAIR OF "FRIENDS OF RIPLEY") TOLD US THAT THE CHURCH WAS MOVED IN 1957 WITH LOTS OF HELP FROM ALL WHO DONATED TIME, MONEY, AND SKILLS. CHILDREN BROUGHT IN JARS OF PENNIES TO SAVE AND MOVE THE HISTORIC CHURCH". HE SAID, "AND YES WE HAD TO COUNT THEM ALL!"

CURATOR JOHN HACHU IS PLANNING A WORLD TOUR TO PROMOTE THE MUSEUM. HE HAS CONTACTED A FEW PEOPLE WHO ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN THIS PROJECT TO HELP THE NON-PROFIT CHURCH OF ONE TREE/ROBERT L. "BELIEVE IT OR NOT" RIPLEY MEMORIAL MUSEUM

PAGE 2

THE STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER ARE AS FOLLOWS.

ADULTS 192

SENIORS 152

CHILD 17

YOUTH 52

7 GROUPS 64

TOTAL 482 PEOPLE

YEAR TO DATE 3618 (OUR SEASON WAS ONE MONTH SHORTER THIS YEAR  
DUE TO OUR APRIL START DATE)

DONATIONS \$23.52

SALES \$36.60

ADMISSIONS \$473.50

TOTAL \$533.62

YEAR TO DATE \$4,516.56

SEPTEMBER 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994

\$556 \$556.40 \$556.35 \$546.94 \$590.41 \$577.32

Sincerely,

*John*

JOHN R. HACKU  
CURATOR

THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE  
ROBERT L. "BELIEVE IT OR NOT" R.  
PIPLEY MEMORIAL MUSEUM  
MONTHLY REPORT  
NOVEMBER 2, 1964

THE SEASON CLOSED THE SAME DAY AS THE LUTHER BURBANK HOME AND GARDENS THIS YEAR OCTOBER 30TH. THE SEASON WAS A MONTH SHORTER THAN LAST YEAR ( PREVIOUS YEARS INCLUDED A MARCH 1ST OPENING DATE WITH A NUDGE OF OCTOBER CLOSING).

THE RIPLEY ENTERTAINMENT INTERNATIONAL MOVE TO ORLANDO, FLORIDA IS NOW COMPLETE AND CURATOR JOHN HACKU HOPES TO VISIT THE HEADQUARTERS IN LATE NOVEMBER AND EARLY DECEMBER. PERHAPS SOME NEW ATTRACTION MIGHT BE UNCOVERED FOR THE SANTA ROSA MUSEUM.

THE RIPLEY FAN CLUB HAS UNCOVERED THE FIRST RIPLEY DRAWING FOR PUBLICATION. THIS DRAWING FROM 1908 WAS FIRST PRINTED IN THE OLD LIFE MAGAZINE. RIPLEY RECEIVED \$6 FOR THE DRAWING OF HIS MOTHER DOING THE LAUNDRY HERE IN SANTA ROSA. THE DRAWING WAS TITLED "THE YOUNG BELLE IS SLOWLY WRINGING". A COPY OF THIS DRAWING IS NOW IN THE MUSEUM.

THERE WILL BE A RIPLEY MARATHON ON THE SCIENCE FICTION NETWORK ALL DAY BEGINNING AT 9 A.M. ON THANKSGIVING DAY NOVEMBER 24TH. SANTA ROSA DOES NOT RECEIVE THAT STATION, HOWEVER ROHNERT PARK, SEAGATEPOL, AND THE REST OF THE COUNTRY DO RECEIVE THE SCI FI NETWORK. WE WILL TRY TO OBTAIN SOME OF THE TAPED PROGRAMS FOR THE NEXT SEASON.

SCOUTMASTER DAVE BERTO HAS APPROACHED THE MUSEUM WITH IDEAS CONCERNING FUTURE FUND RAISING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WINTER MONTHS. WE WILL BE EXPLORING NEXT SEASON'S POSSIBILITIES THROUGHOUT THE WINTER MONTHS. HERITAGE DAYS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ROSE PARADE MAY INCLUDE EXTRA ACTIVITIES AT THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE FOR FUND RAISING EVENTS. STAY TUNED FOR THIS EXCITING PROJECT. THE KIWANIS CLUB OF SANTA ROSA MAY ALSO LEND A HAND IN THIS UPCOMING PROJECT.

A COUPLE OF PAINTERS HAVE SUBMITTED PROPOSALS TO CURATOR JOHN HACKU WITH REGARDS TO THE PAINTING OF THE CHURCH. THESE WILL BE INCLUDED WITH THIS REPORT. THERE WAS AN OFFER OF VOLUNTEER PAINTING FROM A LOCAL SUPPORT GROUP WITH MEMBERS FROM THE AMERICAN NATIONAL CHURCHES AND THE CATHOLIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. THE CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD MEMBER AND ERIC MEER, TOM STEWART AND ANDY SPARRELL OFFERED TO PLAN AND ACTUALLY PAINT THE CHURCH TO A CERTAIN STAGE AT THE FRONT OF THE CHURCH AND PAINT THE SIDE IN THE EXPOSURE PHASE AND EVENTUALLY WILL HAVE TO INCLUDE MORE PAINT AND REPAINT AS THE CHURCH IS BUILT. ERIC MEER AND ERIC SPARRELL REPRESENT THE DEPARTMENT FOR FUTURE STUDY.

THE CHANNEL 30 PRODUCTION WITH THE SANTA ROSA CONFERENCE AND VISITOR BUREAU HAS COMPLETED A PROMOTIONAL FEATURE ON SANTA ROSA. THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE AND CURATOR JOHN HACHU SUPPLIED SLIDES AND FILM THAT WERE INCORPORATED INTO THIS PROMOTIONAL TRAILER AT NO COST TO THE CITY.

THE JUILLIARD PARK ROSE GARDEN IS NOT LOOKING WELL. THE ROSES ARE NOT BEING WATERED PROPERLY AND SEVERAL HAVE DIED. THEY ALSO NEED TO BE SPRAYED. THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE HAS REQUESTED BY PHONE THAT THIS MATTER BE CORRECTED. JIM KING (WHO TAUGHT AGRICULTURE AT THE HIGH SCHOOL FOR 33 YEARS) HAS MADE A REPORT TO THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF SANTA ROSA, STATING "THE ROSES ARE NOT BEING WATERED PROPERLY AND NEED TO BE SPRAYED". THE CITY'S NEW DRIP IRRIGATION SYSTEM WHICH WAS PLACED IN THE GARDEN TWO YEARS AGO NEEDS TO BE ADJUSTED. THE LUTHER BURBANK ROSES ARE SPLENDID AND BY COMPARISON IT IS A SHAME TO THINK THAT A GARDEN THAT'S GROWN 40 YEARS IN SANTA ROSA WILL LOSE SOME OF IT'S PRIZE ROSES DUE TO NEGLECT. THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF SANTA ROSA WILL REPLACE THE DEAD ROSES WITH NEW ONES DONATED BY JACKSON PERKINS ONCE THIS PROBLEM IS CORRECTED. DAN NEFF'S OFFICE WAS CONTACTED WITH THIS PROBLEM AND HE ADVISED THAT THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB MIGHT ASSIGN MEMBERS VOLUNTEER DETAIL FOR THE FUTURE. JIM KING SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS A TWICE A MONTH DETAIL MIGHT HELP THE CARE OF THE ROSES. AT THE NEXT GARDEN CLUB MEETING SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 8, 1994 JOHN HACHU WILL REQUEST VOLUNTEERS FOR THIS PROJECT THROUGH 1995.

THE CURT WOLF VIDEO PRODUCTION ARRIVED AND IT SHOWS THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE AND THE BURBANK HOME & GARDENS. THIS VIDEO WAS SHOWN WORLD WIDE THIS AUTUMN ON TBS.

THE STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER AND THE YEAR ARE:

OCTOBER

ADULTS -	132	ADULTS -	1336.10
YOUTH -	21	YOUTH -	16.86
CHILDREN -	11	CHILDREN -	17.10
MEMBERS -	54		
STAFF -	12		

TOTAL - 310 PEOPLE TOTAL - 1394.06

YEAR TO DATE 1426 PEOPLE YEAR TO DATE 1497.82

Curator: *John*  
John Hachu  
Curator

**THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE  
ROBERT L. "BELIEVE IT OR NOT!"<sup>®</sup>  
RIPLEY MEMORIAL MUSEUM**

492 SONOMA AVENUE  
SANTA ROSA, CA. 95401  
(707) 524-5233

January 16, 1995

Mr. Bob Masterson:  
President  
Ripley's <sup>®</sup>  
Believe It or Not!  
World Headquarters

Dear Mr. Bob Masterson:

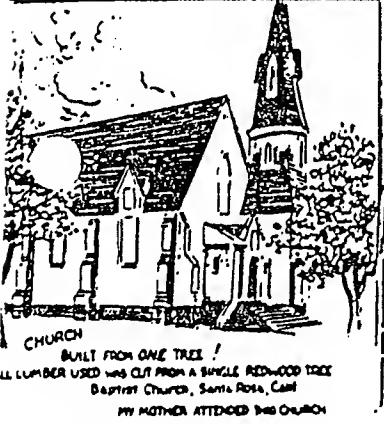
I am delighted to be part of the Twenty-Fourth Annual Manager's Conference this year in Acapulco. I am forwarding my airline information to you at this time.

Thank you for your invitation. It is an honor and a privilege to be with your organization at this time. I look forward to receiving the agenda from Lisa Pacella.

Sincerely,



John R. Hacku  
Curator



CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

Monthly Report

April 30, 1995

The museum opened its' doors on April 1st 1995 to a good crowd. The first day saw \$95 in sales and admissions. Our donations are up for the year as well. We will participate in the Human Race. This fund raising event should bring in more revenue.

The "Believe It Or Not" program is shown every day Monday through Friday on the Science Fiction Network. Santa Rosa does not get this channel. We are still showing video clips from the Ripley archives to the public. They really enjoy the one about the National Anthem. The Ripley cartoon that became a law.

On May 2, 1995 John Hacku will travel to Clearlake and give a presentation to the Kiwanis Club at 7 A.M. John will promote the museum and sell guide books to raise funds. He will only charge the city one hour for this promotion. Hopefully the attendance will continue to rise. We had our best April ever this month. Here are the statistics!

Admissions	\$621.50
Sales	\$255.58
Donations	\$ 66.24
<hr/>	
Total	\$943.32

Adults	271
Youth	79
Seniors	90
Child	25
14 Groups	168
Total	633 people

Sincerely,

John R. Hacku  
Curator

THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE  
ROBERT L. "BELIEVE IT OR NOT" <sup>©</sup>  
RIPLEY MEMORIAL MUSEUM  
MONTHLY REPORT

JUNE 9, 1995

THE DISCOVERY CHANNEL HAS EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN THE MUSEUM. THE PROGRAM "START TO FINISH" WISHES TO INCLUDE THE SANTA ROSA MUSEUM IN IT'S FUTURE. PRODUCER TOM GIESEN WANTS TO INCLUDE A SEGMENT ON "COLLECTABLES" HE WILL FILM FOR A HALF DAY IN JUNE AND THE PROGRAM WILL AIR IN SEPTEMBER. IT IS STILL IN THE PLANNING STAGES.

THE KIWANIS CLUB OF SANTA ROSA WILL MEET FOR A PICNIC AND MEETING AT THE MUSEUM ON JUNE 22, 1995. THE GROUP WILL ALSO VIEW A PROGRAM INSIDE THE MUSEUM. THERE WILL BE ABOUT THIRTY-FIVE KIWANIS MEMBERS PRESENT. THIS GROUP WAS MAINLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MUSEUM'S FUND RAISER AND MOVE IN 1957. SOME OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO HELPED ARE STILL MEMBERS OF THIS SERVICE CLUB.

THE STATISTICS FOR MAY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

251 ADULTS	ADMISSIONS \$563.50
52 YOUTH	SALES \$122.00
142 SENIORS	DONATIONS \$ 28.16
27 CHILDREN	
108 PEOPLE (9 GROUPS)	

580 TOTAL	TOTAL \$713.66
-----------	----------------

1213 PEOPLE FOR THE YEAR TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE \$1656.98
----------------------------------	------------------------

THE HUMAN RACE EFFORTS WERE SUCCESSFUL AND WE WILL BE GETTING A CHECK FROM THEIR PAYOUT SOON. \$100.25 WAS COLLECTED FOR THE HUMAN RACE 75% OF THIS WILL COME BACK TO THE MUSEUM IN JULY.

SINCERELY,

JOHN R. HACKU  
CURATOR

THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE  
ROBERT L. "BELIEVE IT OR NOT!"<sup>®</sup>  
RIPLEY MEMORIAL MUSEUM

JULY 7, 1995

THE MUSEUM IS CURRENTLY BEING DISCUSSED AT CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD MEETINGS WITH REGARDS TO THE FUTURE. THE CITY IS LOOKING AT SEVERAL OPTIONS. WE AGAIN WERE WRITTEN UP IN GAYE LE BARON'S COLUMN CONCERNING COUNCILWOMAN PAT WIGGINS. (SEE THE ENCLOSED JUNE ARTICLE FROM THE PRESS DEMOCRAT).

THE ONLY REMAINING PHOTOGRAPH OF RIPLEY WITH FRANK SINATRA WAS IN OUR ARCHIVES. ED MEYER OF RIPLEY ENTERTAINMENT REQUESTED THE PHOTO FOR AN UPCOMING SURPRISE PARTY. JIM PATTERSON WHO OWNS THE RIPLEY MUSEUMS AND THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS AND WAX MUSEUMS RECENTLY BOUGHT FRANK SINATRA'S HOUSE. THE PHOTO WAS COPIED AND RETURNED TO THE MUSEUM AND RESTS IN THE DISPLAY CASE.

IN A "BELIEVE IT OR NOT" FOLLOW-UP: MARY ANN HACKU THE WIFE OF JOHN HACKU OUR CURATOR IS RELATED TO FRANK SINATRA. HER DAD AND FRANK USED TO PLAY TOGETHER WHEN THEY WERE KIDS IN HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY SOMEHOW DISTANT COUSINS. CONTACT WITH THE SINATRA ENTERPRISES INDICATE THAT FRANK SINATRA'S PERSONAL SECRETARY DOROTHY WANTED THE PICTURE BEFORE THE SURPRISE. "I CAN KEEP SECRETS" SHE EXPLAINED TO CURATOR JOHN HACKU. WELL, WE WILL RESEARCH THE WHERE AND WHY OF THE PHOTO EVENT AFTER THE PRESENTATION. SORRY DOROTHY?

THERE WILL BE AN UPCOMING NEWS SHOW ON THE MUSEUM FOR THIS MONTH ON CHANNEL 50. TEEN BEAT A REGULAR WEEKLY SHOW HOSTED BY OUR OWN DOCENT AND GUIDE ELIZABETH BULL WILL BE PLANNING THE SHOW WITH JOHN HACKU OUR CURATOR. TEENAGERS FOR THIS SHOW ARE NEEDED SO PLEASE CONTACT JOHN HACKU AT THE MUSEUM OR AT 838-8693 IF YOU KNOW OF ANY TEEN TELEVISION WANNABE'S.

THERE ARE SEVERAL EVENTS PLANNED FOR JUILLIARD PARK DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST. THESE THREE CONCERTS IN AUGUST PLUS EVENTS AT FINLEY ARE ON THE ENCLOSED FLYER.

ON SATURDAY MORNINGS ELLEN AND DAVE BAILEY WITH A WORK TEAM OF

SANTA ROSA/GARDENERS OF AMERICA. WE WORK FROM 9-12 EVERY SATURDAY. DRIP IRRIGATION REPAIR, WEEDING, DEAD HEADING, AND

OTHER NECESSARY CARE PROCEDURES ARE ACCOMPLISHED. WE ARE WORKING CLOSELY WITH DENISE FROM PARK AND RECREATION AND TOM LOCOCO CONCERNING THIS ENDEAVOR. A LIST OF THE OTHER WORKERS WILL BE FORTHCOMING. JOHN HACKU, LEYTON YOUNGCLAUS, LYLE KELLER, AND JIM KING ALL ASSISTED THESE PAST FEW WEEKS.

THE 22ND ANNUAL KIWANIS FOOTBALL FUND RAISER IS UNDERWAY. SOME OF THE PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE PARK AND RECREATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND. THE PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT WILL MAKE AVAILABLE FOR SALE TICKETS AT FINLEY AND STEELE LANE. (SEE FLYERS ENCLOSED)

THE STATISTICS FOR JUNE 1995 AT THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

ADULTS	219	ADMISSIONS	\$531.25
YOUTH	56	DONATIONS	\$113.55
SENIORS	151	SALES	82.75
12 GROUPS	144		
CHILDREN	14		

---

TOTAL	584	TOTAL	\$727.55
YEAR TO DATE	1797 PEOPLE	YEAR TO DATE	\$2374.53

THE NEWS SHOW TEEN BEAT( AS PART OF THE CHANNEL 50 NEWS) WILL VISIT THE RIPLEY MUSEUM THIS WEEK. IF YOU KNOW ANY TEENS INTERESTED IN APPEARING ON THIS SEGMENT PLEASE CONTACT JOHN HACKU AT 838-8698. OUR OWN ELIZABETH BULL WILL DO THE INTERVIEWS FOR TELEVISION.



The Church of One Tree Robert "Believe It Or Not!"<sup>®</sup> Ripley Memorial Museum

## July Report

The statistics for July are:

Admissions \$747.75

Sales 92.95

Donations 20.50

---

Total \$861.20

Adults 335

Youth 106

Seniors 107

12 Groups 144

Children 25

---

Total 817 people

## NEWS

The Purchase of Frank Sinatra's home by Jim Pattison is news! The only picture Of Frank and Bob Ripley together was at the Church of One Tree. We quickly made copies and sent them to Mr. Pattison for the celebration. Frank Sinatra's secretary Dorothy promises to explain about the 1938 event that Ripley attended. In the meantime Mr. Pattison, owner of Ripley Entertainment Inc. moved into Rancho Mirage, CA. He also bought Sinatra's piano..Believe It Or Not!.

# SONOMA COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



July 5, 1995

Mr. John R. Hacku  
The Church of One Tree  
492 Sonoma Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Dear Mr. Hacku,

Thank you so very much for taking the time to advise the Sonoma County Community Foundation concerning our new fund as a result of the bequest of Charles DeMeo.

Most people have good intentions to respond to such a request and very few take the time to actually do it. I know that it takes a lot of work to first think about what you want to say, find the paper, pen, typewriter, computer, etc. and actually put it all together. We have received approximately 40 responses and we appreciate each one of them.

We are carefully reviewing the letters and we are in the process of preparing a chart showing the interests of our respondents. In addition, members of the staff and board are doing independent research and conducting interviews with key individuals and groups in our community to begin to inform ourselves on the issues and possibilities.

Many people are curious about the timetable and when we will plan to make grants. The bequest was announced in May and we continue to work with the trustees to transfer the funds to the Community Foundation. This process will begin within the next few weeks and may take several months before it is complete. In the meantime, we have formed a DeMeo Fund Advisory Board, chaired by Jeanne Martin Buckley. In addition to Jeanne, there will be at least four other members, two of whom are Bill Pass and Brad DeMeo, Charles DeMeo's advisors, in whom he had great confidence.

Again, thank you for your interest in helping to shape this new fund. We will keep you informed and we may be in touch with you by phone or in person to solicit even more information.

Most sincerely,

*Kay M. Marquet*  
Kay M. Marquet  
Executive Director

KMM/pf

3550 ROUND BARN BLVD., SUITE 212, SANTA ROSA, CA 95403 707-579-4073 FAX 707-579-4801

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10 East 53rd Street  
New York, New York  
10022-3299

Telephone 212 207-7500  
Fax 212 207-7936

AccessPress  
HarperCollinsPublishers

John Hacku  
Robert L. Ripley Memorial Museum  
Santa Rosa

July 7, 1995

Dear Mr. Hacku:

Following our conversation last week, I am faxing you a copy of the illustration/logo we would like to use in connection with a description of Robert L. Ripley Memorial Museum for the upcoming (1996) ACCESS Northern California Wine Country travel guide. For proper copyright authorization, please review this material and answer the following questions:

1. Does this illustration/logo appear in your publicity materials and/or do you own the rights to it? (If either is the case, answer "Yes.")  
 Yes  No.

2. If you answered "yes" to the question above, do we have your permission to use this illustration in the upcoming (1996) edition of ACCESS Northern California Wine Country?  
 Yes  No.

3. If you answered "No" to question #1, or if the image should be updated, can you provide us with a replacement?  
 Yes  No.

If so, please mail a copy of the replacement image as soon as possible to:

Gene Gold  
Associate Editor, Access Press  
10 E. 53rd St., 18th floor  
New York, NY 10022

Please sign and date this form below.

SIGNATURE John R. Hacku DATE July 11, 1995

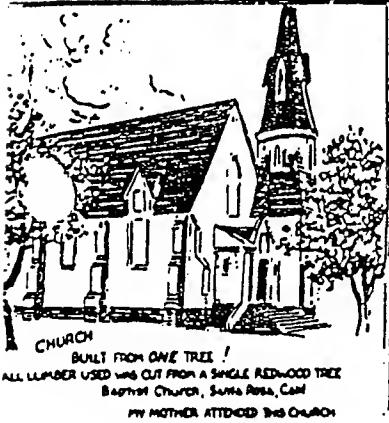
NOTE: Because we are on a tight production schedule, please fax the completed form to Gene Gold at 212-207-7936 by Tuesday, July 11.

Thank you for your assistance, it's greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,  
*Elizabeth Stevens*  
Elizabeth Stevens  
tel# (212) 207-7537



(R)  
Please  
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CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

September 1995

THE SANTA ROSA RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD A PUBLIC MEETING ON THE OPTIONS AND FUTURE OF THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE AND JUILLIARD PARK. THE JUILLIARD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING WILL FOLLOW. THE MEETING IS AT THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE AT 7 P.M. SEPTEMBER 13, 1995.

FOUR TELEVISION PROMOTIONS AND FEATURES ON THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE WERE BROADCAST THIS AUGUST. THE BURT WOLF SPECIAL ON SONOMA COUNTY WAS AIRED ON CHANNEL 9. TEEN SCENE FEATURING THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE ON CHANNEL 10, BAY AREA BACKROADS REPEAT, AND THE BELIEVE IT OR NOT SHOW WITH JACK PALANCE ON THE SCIENCE FICTION STATION REPEATED THE FEATURED RIPLEY CHURCH OF ONE TREE.

SANDRA GURVIS MADE THE NATIONAL NIGHTLY ABC NEWS WITH HER BOOK "THE COCKROACH HALL OF FAME AND 101 OTHER UNUSUAL MUSEUMS". WE WERE FEATURED IN THE CALIFORNIA SECTION. THERE IS A NICE TWO PAGE WRITE UP ABOUT US. OTHER BOOKS WILL SOON FEATURE OUR MUSEUM. MORE ON THAT NEXT MONTH.

THE STATISTICS FOR AUGUST ARE:

ADMISSIONS:	\$650.00	ADULTS	238
DONATIONS:	22.36	YOUTH	138
SALES:	64.50	SENIORS	146
Total	\$736.86	CHILDREN	19
		2 GROUPS	24
		TOTAL	610 PEOPLE

SINCERELY,

JOHN R. HACKU  
CURATOR

)  
The Church of One Tree Robert L. "Believe It Or Not!"® Ripley Memorial museum

Mr. Bill Montgomery  
Park & Recreation Department  
415 Steele Lane  
Santa Rosa, CA. 95403

September 28, 1995

Dear Mr. Montgomery:

)  
Here is a copy of the response I received from the Sonoma County Community Foundation in reply to the letter I wrote requesting funds. Charles DeMeo was an essential element in the Church of One Tree project back in 1957. I wrote the Foundation this year. I hope that we have a chance to receive added funds for the continuation of this fine museum.

I have great respect for the Park and Recreation administration. It is because of the efforts of Mr. Chuck Rust, Eric, and yourself that the future looks bright for the Juilliard Park and the famous Church of One Tree.

Sincerely,

*John*

John R. Hacku  
Curator

cc: EJ/CR

The Church of One Tree/Robert L. Believe It Or Not! Ripley Memorial Museum  
Monthly Report

October 4, 1995

September Statistics

The season is winding down for the year and we have only four weeks to go. The museum will be closed for the winter months beginning October 30.

Inventory and computer up-date of the Ripley Archives will be on-going. Dave Berto has also suggested a winter fund raiser for the museum. This will be considered for some future event along the lines of Heritage Days.

The September meeting with the Cultural Heritage Board, Church of One Tree Committee, and the Town Council was very productive. Future options, ideas, and plans were discussed at length.

The Neighborhood Watch Group will meet at the Church on October 4, 1995. This will be their last meeting at the museum this year. Future meetings will be held at The Luther Burbank School

Adults: 210  
Seniors 114  
Youth 56  
Children 22  
2Groups 24

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Total 426 people

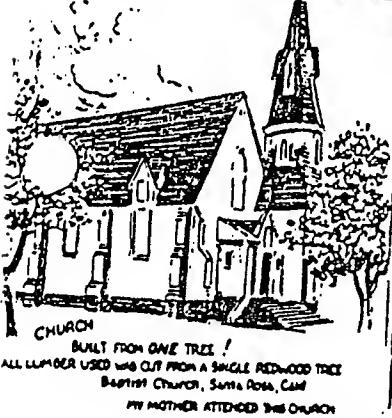
Admissions \$450.25  
Sales 45.50  
Donations 25.11

---

Total \$520.86

Past Results for September

1989	\$556.00
1990	\$508.40
1991	\$556.85
1992	\$540.94
1993	\$590.41
1994	\$533.82
1995	\$520.66



CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

1995 Season Final Report

October 29, 1995

The museum is now closed for the season. The "Baseball Oddity" display was announced weekly in the Press Democrat, The San Francisco Chronicle-Examiner, the Sonoma County Independent, The Kid Konnection, and in the current issue of the Santa Rosa Junior College "Oakleaf"!

The story on Ripley in Wonder Magazine did not make the autumn edition as promised but some future plans to promote Ripley and his museums are in the works. Hopefully we will promote The Church of One Tree throughout the winter months at no expense to the city. Hopefully we will open the 1996 season on April 1st 1996. We have a field trip planned with Freemont School for April 30th, 1996 to our quaint museum. Have a delightful holiday season!

The October & Total Statistics for 1995!

Admissions:	\$311.00
Sales	\$ 41.00
Donations	\$ 32.80
<hr/>	
Total	\$384.80
Year's Total	\$4877.25

Adults	142
Youth	21
Seniors	56
Children	7
8 Groups	96
<hr/>	
Total	322 people
Year's Total	3972 people

Sincerely,

John R. Hacku  
Curator



CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

*May*  
April 18, 1990

Church of One Tree  
Ripley Memorial Museum  
Newsletter and Report

This month statistics again were better than the 1987 and 1988 season but slightly lower than last year. Several tour groups that came through last year have again signed up for next month which should improve sales.

The front door signs are ordered. New signs were provided by Robert Young and will soon reflect the schedule of March through October. The Church of One Tree salutes this endeavor. Thank you Bob.

The media policy was reviewed concerning audio and video rights. Edward Myers was contacted due to an abundance of tourists with audio and video cameras. It was also reviewed with Kay Voliva of Luther Burbank Home and Gardens with regards to their policies on audio and video rights. Photographs will be permitted here for personal use. Any commercial or other use will be requested through proper channels of the Recreation and Park Department.

Welcome Wagon is now distributing our flyers each month in it's new resident greetings. Chamber of Commerce, Convention Center, Burbank Home and Gardens, plus several local hotels also provide flyer distribution. The other visitor centers in surrounding towns have been provided with our brochures. We will soon need to replenish our supply. There is an error in the brochure which has been discovered. The picture inside the brochure with Ripley holding the umbrella is incorrectly labeled. The caption reads that "..., is flanked by New York Yankees greats Carl Hubble (left) and Lou Gehrig." (see brochure) Actually Carl Hubble is a New York Giant and is on the right of Bob Ripley. The caption could be mended easily to read "..., is flanked by New York greats Carl Hubble (right) and Lou Gehrig. If there are other complications please contact the office of The Church of One Tree.

Gary Weaver arrived last month with original cartoons of Bob Ripley. They are part of his family collection. I referred him to Marc Cohen who collects cartoons in town. Marc provided us with some important information. Currently Paul Frehm is no longer doing the Ripley cartoon due to a change in ownership of the syndicate. King Features no longer promotes the strip. Currently United Media is doing the Believe It Or Not cartoon strip.

It was discovered through conversation with Mr. Edward Meyers from Ripley's Executive Offices that United Media of New York city



CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

Page Two

Church Of One Tree  
Monthly Report

May 18, 1990

currently has hired Don Wimmer, a free-lance artist, to continue the daily cartoon.

Tom Taniguchi and Tom Kint met with me concerning the Church of One Tree upkeep with regards to exterior paint. Touch-up paint has been provided for exterior work. It will be gradually applied to needed areas throughout the season at no additional cost to the city. Eventually the city will have to re-paint the entire structure. Caulking and painting will be applied by the curator during the summer months. Front doors and side doors have already been repainted.

John Kinsley Woods visited the museum this week. His grandfather was the person responsible for cutting the tree down in Guerneville in 1873. He currently lives in Napa.

Kay Voliva wrote a history concerning the Hudson family in The Luther Burbank Home and Garden newsletter. The brother of the Hudsons who helped build the Church Of One Tree used to ride with John Fremont and Kit Carson in the ancient days.

On June 23, 1990 we will have an open house to the public, some refreshments will be served. Donations will be taken if offered but the day will be free from 11 to 3 P.M. as written in the past newsletter. A flyer will be made up this week to explain details. The travel film of Bob Ripley will be provided for viewing.

The receipts and statistics for this month are as follows:

April 19- May 17, 1990 21 Days  
Six Groups = 146 people  
258 Adults  
10 Under six years  
39 Children  
81 Seniors

Totals  
534 people  
\$413.80  
\$19.70 average per day  
25 people per day

March 1, 1990- May 18, 1990  
YEARLY TOTALS 55 DAYS  
\$1201.05  
1364 people  
Average \$21.83  
24.8 people per day

June 25, 1990

CHURCH OF ONE TREE  
RIPLEY MEMORIAL  
MONTHLY REPORT

The Church of One Tree had a successful open house celebration on June 23, 1990 in which 73 people attended the festivities. This was our first open house and it should be noted that over \$24 was collected from donations. The film and new exhibits were enjoyed by all. Hopefully our publicity in the local papers plus the flyers about the event brought the crowd. Next year we hope to have more than one hundred attend.

Lisa Ehli of Santa Rosa won the raffle prize which was a beautiful handmade satin pillow. She was delighted. The refreshments consisted of cookies and lemonade.

The Church was painted on the inside last week. It was in need of a fresh coat. The white interior was touched up by volunteer effort. The outside touch-up work will proceed throughout the summer months when we have the time. This will not be an extra expense to the city.

Letters and brochures will be sent to organizations, school, and travel groups during the next months to encourage future visits. We have our best days when groups are scheduled. We have a total of 25 groups this year. Hopefully more will visit us in the future. Guests this month have come from as far away as China and Czechoslovakia and as close as next door.

The statistics for this year and this month are as follows:

From March 1, 1990 through and including May 18, 1990 we took in a total of \$1216.65.

From May 19- June 25 and including June 25 we received \$732.75.

Total for the year 1990= \$1949.40  
25 Groups (351 people)  
1198 Adults  
227 Youth  
330 Seniors  
95 Under 6 years

*May 19-June 25 1990*  
Adults 460 (60 adults OPEN HOUSE  
Child 100 (17 children OPEN HOUSE  
Seniors 113  
Under 6 33  
11 Groups 179 people  
905 people

2201 Total People including the Open House when admission was free.

84 days of operation in 1990 averages- 26 people per day  
\$23.21 per day

Sincerely,

*John Hacku*  
John Hacku  
Curator

June 25, 1990

Dear Marven and Ebbie:

Thank you for visiting The Church of One Tree during our first Open House festivities. It is always a joy to see you. We had over 70 people attend and hopefully it will be larger next year.

Marven asked about Ripley's educational background and I thought, at this time, to elaborate concerning the particulars. Miss Frances O'Mera (who taught here for 50 years) was his 10th grade English teacher who allowed him to draw in class. She taught him to place sentences under the drawings for English credit. He quit school after that year to earn money for the family due to the death of his father. He was a semi-pro ball player here in Santa Rosa and later made the big league teams in New York but quit due to a severe arm injury. Ruben Goldberg tutored him in drawing. That cartoonist is the one who the famed Reuben Award is named. This award is given once a year to honor the best cartoon illustrator. Charles Schulz, who's first cartoon appeared in a Ripley's Believe It Or Not in 1937 won this award in 1955. Ripley took reporting lessons from Walter Winchell. He also was one of the first people to feature Eric Severied on his early radio shows from Paris.

Robert Ripley took lessons from many others in the field of reporting, illustrating, radio, and television. His radio coach Doug Storer was instrumental in providing him technical and other valuable communication advice, (There are many others along his illustrious career).

On May 29, 1939 he was given an honorary degree. The Doctor of Letters degree from Missouri Valley College was presented by President Bibb in Marshall, Missouri for "distinguished record in disseminating knowledge through his cartoons". Later, other universities followed with similar presentations.

It should be noted that Ripley's head researcher was Norbert Pearlroth who had a team of librarians that were very educated. I hope this provides some insight into the life of one of Santa Rosa's famous citizens. During the ten months at The Church of One Tree many more details have been brought to my attention. It is my hope to preserve the memory of Bob in a good light. He was always welcome here in Santa Rosa and at his childhood church. He received the keys to the city on a visit here in 1932.

Thank you again for your visit.

Sincerely,



John R. Hacku



*Santa Rosa*

Church of One Tree  
Ripley Memorial Museum  
492 Sonoma Ave.  
Santa Rosa, CA. 95402

Mrs Carolynne Price Keeling  
15837 81st St. East  
Puyallup, Washington  
93872

Thank you for your visit here to Santa Rosa. It was a joy to talk with you and share the history of this historic site.

The picture that you donated is on display and everyone is delighted with the extra information you provided. Hopefully you can visit some time soon, again. It is important to expand the church history inside the museum. The interest in historic fact concerning this building is growing.

Your information concerning the hedging and the lawn was delightful. I relate to tourists the story concerning the sign "God is Love" which was stenciled on the back wall during the 1920's.

You are always welcome here. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

*John R. Hacku*

John R. Hacku  
Curator



CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

May 18, 1990

Ripley's  
Believe It Or Not  
Memorial Museum  
Church of One Tree  
492 Sonoma Ave.  
Santa Rosa, CA.  
95402

Edward Meyers  
Ripley's  
Believe It Or Not !  
Executive Offices  
90 Eglinton Ave. East  
Suite 510  
Totonto, Ontario,  
Canada, M4p 2Y3

Dear Edward:

Thank you for your prompt and wonderful reply of April 25, 1990. The videotape is a huge success with our visitors. The explanation of the Ripley cartoon was forwarded to the seaman who requested it.

If I can ever be of service to you, do not hesitate to contact me. I also would like to thank Kim Birch who helped in recovering the answers to questions asked.

Sincerely,

Church of One Tree  
Ripley's Memorial Museum

*John R. Hacku*

John R. Hacku  
Curator

)  
August 10, 1990

Church of One Tree  
Ripley's Memorial Museum  
492 Sonoma Ave.  
Santa Rosa, CA. 95402

Mr. Walt Wiley  
The Sacramento Bee  
2100 Q Street  
P.O. Box 15779  
Sacramento, CA. 95852

Dear Mr. Wiley:

I wish to thank you for your interest in the life of Robert Ripley and "The Church of One Tree". It was good to see and speak with you yesterday. Despite frequent interruptions from visiting tourists we were able to share some insights to Robert Ripley and his favorite church.

I look forward to reading the article you have planned and wish you the best of luck in the future. If you are in need of any further information please do not hesitate to call the museum between Wednesday and Sunday 11-4 P.M.

Thank you again for your time and your interest. Please visit us in the future if you are in the area.

Sincerely,

*John R. Hacku*

John R. Hacku  
Curator

August 10, 1990  
Church of One Tree  
492 Sonoma Ave.  
Santa Rosa, CA. 95402

Mr. & Mrs. R.J. Becker  
9103 Trentham Court  
Louiseville, KY.  
40242-3346

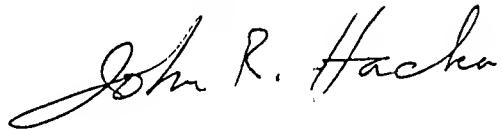
Thank you for the informative letter dated July 31, 1990. The church was moved to this site in 1957. Half of the building was not saved. The main portion of the Church was assembled and opened to the public as a museum in 1972. There is a small display of church history plus a display on Bob Ripley who attended this church as a boy. His mom went here regularly. Bob Ripley, creator of "Believe It Or Not" was born in Santa Rosa and grew up here.

Here is some of the information you requested. I hope that you will be able to visit us in the future. I look forward to speaking with you. May you be in good health and prosper.

The church was painted red years ago so the postcard depicts how it looks today. There may be future renovation plans to restore it to what it once was.

It is always good to here historical news concerning this historic building. Thank you for the memories.

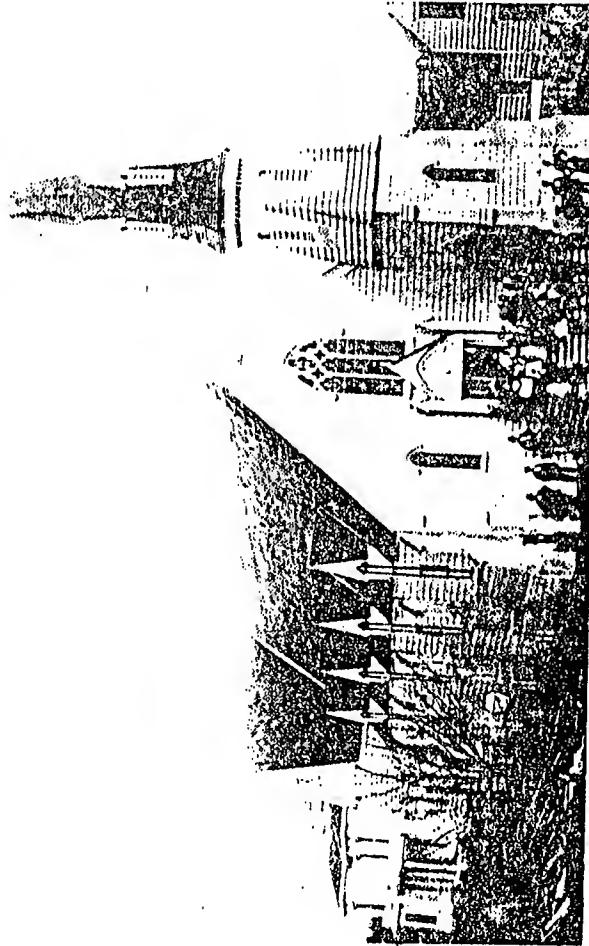
Sincerely,



John R. Hacku  
Curator

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### Finalist (Multi-Platform)



The Baptist church on Ross Street was described by some as the world famous as The Church of Christ. Now, there lies an application which came in, a sufficient to the congregation. The members not only had to, I complained it, but were unaware of the time of construction. When the story began to circulate about the church's unique status, there was some dispute about its authenticity. In 1990 Santa Rosa attorney Thomas J. Butts, who had been an employee of Rufus Murphy's mill in Guerneville when the tree was sawn, prepared an affidavit which was read from the pulpit describing the circumstances of the church's construction.

The redwood tree, 18 feet in diameter, was felled a mile northwest of Guerneville, near

the first time in the history of the world, the *whole* of the human race, in all its parts, has been brought together in a single, common, and universal language.

RIPLEY MEMORIAL MUSEUM  
CHURCH OF ONE TREE  
JULY MONTHLY REPORT

JULY 22, 1990

The statistics since the museum opened this March 1, 1990 are as follows. Promotion and historical up-dating are continuing.

MARCH 1990 (23days)

Adults	260
Seniors	105
Youth	43
Under(6)	23
Groups	35 (2 groups)
Total	472 people

MARCH	
Admissions	\$384.25
Sales	15.25
Donations	15.35
Total	\$414.85

APRIL 1990 (21days)

Adults	321
Youth	64
Seniors	76
Under(6)	28
Groups	160 (7 groups)
Total	640 people

APRIL	
Admissions	\$474
Sales	26.25
Donations	9.25
Total	\$509.50

MAY 1990 (22days)

Adults	281
Youth	56
Seniors	97
Under(6)	24
Groups	161 (7 groups)
Total	619 people

MAY	
Admissions	\$461.75
Sales	36.00
Donations	10.80
Total	\$508.55

JUNE 1990 (22days)

Adults	422 (60 for Open House)
Seniors	77
Youth	88 (14 for Open House)
Under(6)	21
Groups	176 (10 groups)
Total	784 people

JUNE	
Admissions	\$568.75
Sales	37.75
Donations	34.00
Total	\$640.50

JULY 1-22, 1990 (16days)

Adults	299
Seniors	136
Youth	81
Under(6)	31
Groups	49 (5 groups)
Total	596 people

JULY	
Admissions	\$465.50
Sales	31.75
Donations	14.87
Total	\$512.12

\$2585.52

Year To Date 3111 people

*John Hachan*  
CURATOR



CHURCH  
BUILT FROM ONE TREE!  
LUMBER USED WAS CUT FROM A SINGLE REDWOOD TREE  
BAPTIST CHURCH, Santa Rosa, Calif.  
MY MOTHER ATTENDED THIS CHURCH



CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

August 1990

AUGUST MONTHLY REPORT  
CHURCH OF ONE TREE

This month The Church of One Tree was mentioned on the morning show, KNBR, with Pat and Mike. The Sacramento Bee sent a reporter to examine Santa Rosa history and Carol Myers from the San Francisco Chronicle was by to do an article for October in her travel column. The people who visited August 17, 18, and 19, explained that some woman had called the KNBR morning show to give us free publicity. Thank you lady...whoever you are? Mr. Wiley arrived this week to do an article in the Sacramento Bee. That article should be in the paper any day now.

We set up a display at the Coddington Shopping Mall at their request for their annual Kid's Day on August 18. A Ripley Video was displayed and information was handed out to all who passed by.

The museum now has a phonemate portable phone recorder to better assist the person who is on duty. This and the television are provided by the curator until the end of this season. The portable phone and answering machine is a necessity to any museum. The video of Bob Ripley's travels is shown daily and is a big hit with the tourists. The figures for this month (20 days) are as follow:

Adults	417
Seniors	97
Youth	118
Child	41
Groups	3 (50 people) Two Japanese Student Groups and one large family group of 8 people.
Total	723 people

Admissions	\$574.25
Sales	52.25
Donations	27.50

Totals	\$654	Yearly Total \$3239.52
		Total People 3834 people

Sincerely,

John R. Hacku (Curator)

RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT  
Recreation Division 415 Steele Lane Santa Rosa California 95403  
Telephone 707-576-5116 or 707-576-5268



*Santa Rosa*

August 1990

AUGUST MONTHLY REPORT  
CHURCH OF ONE TREE

This month The Church of One Tree was mentioned on the morning show, KNBR, with Pat and Mike. The Sacramento Bee sent a reporter to examine Santa Rosa history and Carol Myers from the San Francisco Chronicle was by to do an article for October in her travel column. The people who visited August 17, 18, and 19, explained that some woman had called the KNBR morning show to give us free publicity. Thank you lady...whoever you are? Mr. Wiley arrived this week to do an article in the Sacramento Bee. That article should be in the paper any day now.

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Total People	3834 people

Sincerely,

RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

John R. Hacku (Curator)



CHURCH  
BUILT FROM ONE TREE!  
LUMBER USED WAS CUT FROM A SINGLE REDWOOD TREE  
Baptist Church, Santa Rosa, Calif.  
MY MOTHER ATTENDED THIS CHURCH



CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

August 19, 1990

Church Of One Tree  
Corrections July 27, 29 & August 12, 1990

Hi Folks:

Addition errors were recently discovered for the following days. On July 27, 29, and on August 12 addition errors were made. I am sorry about the mistakes. Please see the copies enclosed which pinpoint the errors. Enclosed is the \$4 difference.

If there is any further question in this matter please do not hesitate to call me at the museum from 11-4 P.M. Wednesday-Sunday. We try to be as accurate as possible each day.

The museum is open until October 21, 1990 and is scheduled to open again on March 1, 1991.

Sincerely,

John R. Hacku



CITY OF

Santa Rosa

August 30, 1990

Luther Burbank Home & Gardens  
P.O. Box 1678  
Santa Rosa, CA. 95402

Hi Folks,

The Church of One Tree would like to thank you for your help in making this season the best ever. The constant flow of people from the Burbank Home to the Church of One Tree and vice versa has been a benefit to the city of Santa Rosa. It is our hope to continue this season suggesting our museums to tourists. Our season closes this year October 21. We hope to open next season on March 1, 1991. Our hours are 11-4 P.M. Wednesday through Sunday.

Here are two articles that appeared recently in the California papers. It also appeared in the San Diego Tribune and the San Jose Mercury News. It is good publicity for us. There are a few errors in the story, "Believe It Or Not".

The certainty of the Ripley birthdate can never be known however there are dates from 1890-1894 that are printed as fact. His official death date is May 26 or 27th(not 22)as stated in the article. He was buried here in Santa Rosa on June 4, 1949. The State Assembly of California adjourned early in his honor on June 3, 1949.

He first worked for the San Francisco Bulletin not the Examiner when he got his first newspaper job. It was the New York Globe not the Post which printed his first "Believe It Or Not" column on December 18, 1910. He originally wanted to call it "Champs and Chumps" but an editor had him change the title. He went back to his office and came up with the now famous "Believe It Or Not".

Ripley went to the old church when he was a child and wished to buy it in 1941 and 1947. His dad is said to have helped in the construction of this old church as stated in a Gaye LeBaron article in 1979. He was awestruck when he met Jack London here in Santa Rosa. It was London's influence that gave him the travel waunderlust."Believe It Or Not".

Finally I moved to Santa Rosa in 1982 after working in San Francisco and Oakland. I first arrived in California in 1972 but returned to New England several times before settling permanently in 1979.

In appreciation to Luther Burbank volunteers the museum will be

RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT  
Recreation Division 415 Steele Lane Santa Rosa California 95403  
Telephone 707 576 5116 or 707 576 5268

) open free of charge to you these last few weeks. Bring your identification badge and you will be admitted to the museum. This offer is good until October 21, 1990.

We have some old film clips of the Ripley travels plus an oddity film which can be seen if requested. Old scrap books provided by Ripley International can also be looked through if you so desire. So come see the Church of One Tree.

Thank you again for your help this season and see you all soon.

Sincerely,



) John Hacku  
Curator & fellow Burbankian

P.S. The articles enclosed are copies from the Sacramento Bee (August 17, 1990) and The Marin Independent Journal (August 26, 1990)

)



CHURCH  
BUILT FROM ONE TREE!  
UNDER USED WAS CUT FROM A SINGLE REDWOOD TREE  
BAPTIST CHURCH, Santa Rosa, Calif  
MY MOTHER ATTENDED THIS CHURCH



CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

August 31, 1990

Recreation & Parks Department  
415 Steele Lane  
Santa Rosa, CA. 95403

Hi Folks,

These are two copies of articles we had in the California papers this month. Walt Wiley wrote the piece for the Sacramento Bee. He is a staff writer for the news service.

There are a few minor errors in the story which I should mention. The article gives us good publicity and is basically sound. However, it was in the New York Globe, not the Post, that Ripley first published "Believe It Or Not" on December 19, 1918. He also worked for the San Francisco Bulletin when he first worked in San Francisco not the Examiner. The Examiner later hired him after the fame of the column. Bob's official death is either May 26 or 27 not the 22nd as the article states, Believe It Or Not.

This article also appeared in the San Jose Mercury News and the San Diego Tribune. Visitors have mentioned other papers as well. We will have a travel write up in the Chronicle October 6, 1990. Carol Meyers will do a piece from our brochure. She called recently to ask for up dated information.

Finally the article in the Marin Independent Journal is also enclosed. I have been a resident of Santa Rosa since 1981. I moved to California in 1972 but returned to New England several times to my work as high school teacher at Lyman Hall High in Wallingford, Connecticut.

We are in the final 38 days of our season. I would like to personally thank all the office staff who were so helpful during the year. I appreciate their support and help. Thank you.

If you wish to visit the Church of One Tree before the end of the season please identify yourself and you will be admitted free of charge. This offer is good until October 21, 1990. Check with Robert Young in the Recreation Office for directions and procedures.

Sincerely,

*John Hacku*

RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT  
Recreation Division 415 Steele Lane Santa Rosa California 95403  
Telephone 707-576-5116 or 707-576-5268

John Hacku  
Curator

September 22, 1990

Monthly Report  
Church of One Tree  
Ripley Memorial Museum  
August 21- September 20, 1990

This time period has passed very quickly at the Julliard Park and Church of one tree. We made the San Jose Mercury News this time with a picture of the museum from the outside. It was a nice write up. The visitors included people from many foreign countries who saw the museum featured in a repeat of the "Believe It Or Not" series which was made two years ago here in Santa Rosa with Jack Palance. A visitor from New York claimed to have seen old footage of Bob Ripley on a PBS station recently. Our season ends October 21, 1990. Here are the statistics for this time period including September 20, 1990.

YTD \$3888.70

4508 people

Adults 433  
Youth 52  
Seniors 101  
Groups 59 (4 groups)  
Under 8 29

---

Total 674 people

Admissions \$571.75  
Donations \$ 34.73  
Sales \$ 42.70

---

Total \$649.18

Sincerely,



John R. Hacku  
Curator

## State News

As a matter of fact, Robert Ripley himself attended church here when this was Santa Rosa's Baptist Church. Believe it or not.

—John Hacku

# Museum is one for Ripley

McClatchy News Service

SANTA ROSA — John Hacku wasn't born in Santa Rosa, and he never thought much about Robert Ripley of "Believe it or Not" fame before.

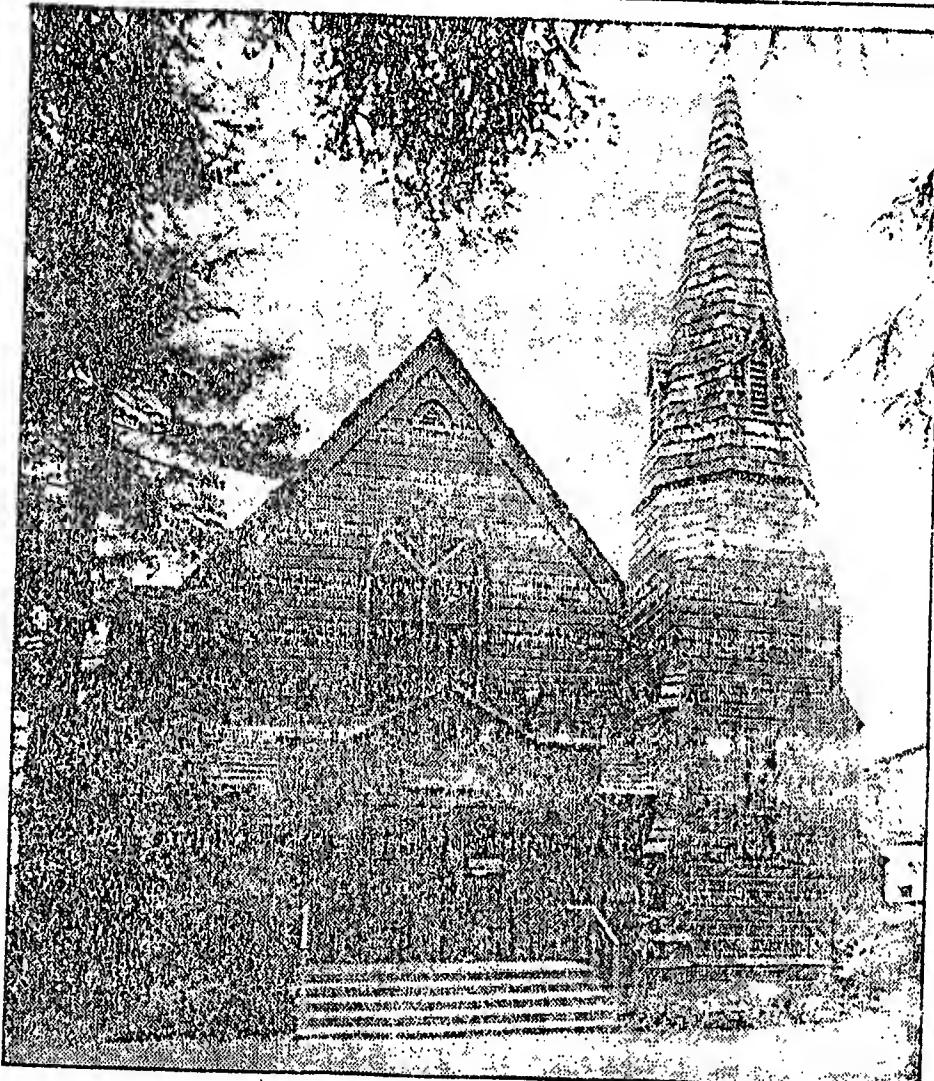
But now that he is Santa Rosa's keeper of the Robert Ripley flame, "Believe it or not" has become his byword.

There are Ripley museums in major cities around the world, but Hacku believes his Ripley museum, tucked away in a corner of Juilliard Park on the edge of downtown Santa Rosa, needn't take a back seat to anyone's.

For one thing, it is Ripley's hometown's own monument to him, and it surely is the only Ripley museum lodged in a building Ripley himself drew and mentioned as a world-class oddity in his popular newspaper feature.

"As a matter of fact, Robert Ripley himself attended church here when this was Santa Rosa's Baptist Church. Believe it or not," Hacku said the other day as he showed off the tidy little city-owned museum of which he is the part-time curator and its only paid employee.

"And of course, you know, this is the famous church Ripley wrote about, the Church of One Tree. All the boards that went into this church's construction came from a single redwood tree felled



Jeff Kan Le — Santa Rosa Press Democrat

## One Tree Church in Santa Rosa is now a Ripley Museum near Guerneville. Believe it or not."

Hacku, 43, a Connecticut native and 20-year resident of Santa Rosa, is a travel guide and teacher when he isn't working at the museum. He admitted the phrase, "Believe it or not," has become a major part of his speech since he signed on at the museum earlier this year after serving as a part-time volunteer for several years.

"It's just that everything you say about this man's life is so incredible you have to add that to the end of whatever you say. I don't know it's true. I believe it's true. You can believe it or not."

Ripley was born in Santa Rosa in 1891, 1893, 1894 or 1895, according to which account is believed (or not), and he died in New York, officially on May 22, 1949, although there are variations on that

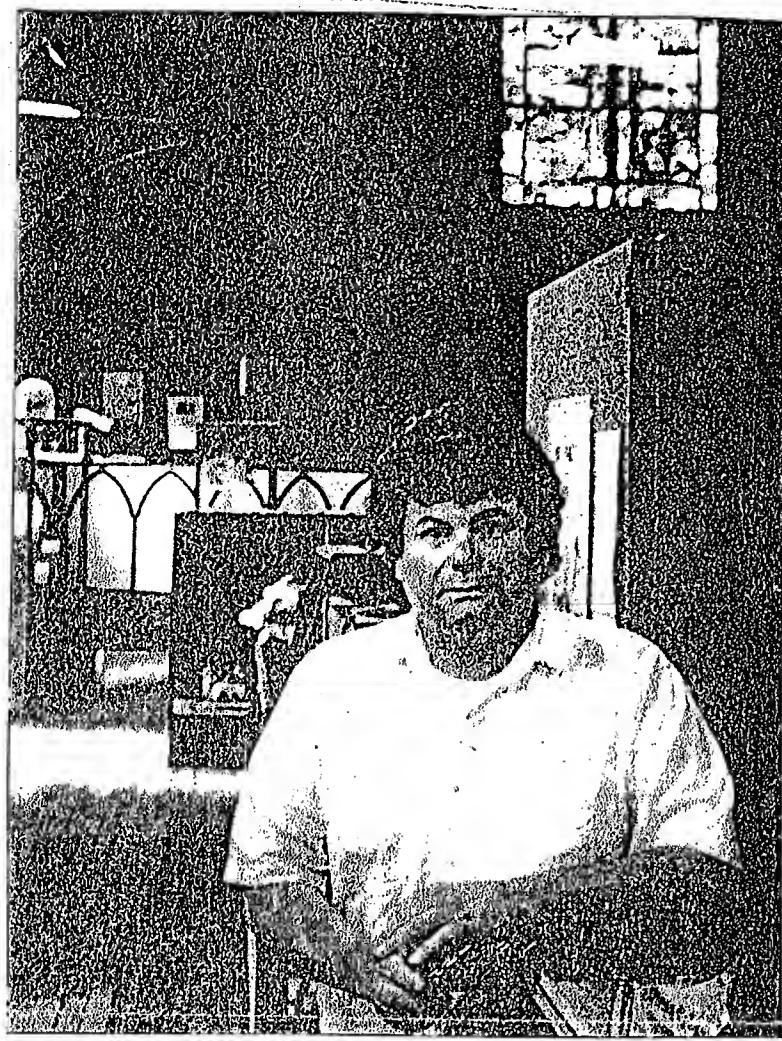
date as well, Hacku said.

As a schoolboy, Ripley showed promise as a cartoonist and was encouraged by his teachers. He went on to draw sports cartoons — first for a local newspaper, then for the San Francisco Examiner, and then for the New York Post.

It was while Ripley was at the Post that he came up with the idea for his famous cartoon. The Post published the first Believe It or Not on Dec. 19, 1918, and the series continues today, drawn by anonymous artists still under Ripley's name, appearing in 350 newspapers.

### IF YOU'RE INTERESTED

The Santa Rosa Ripley Museum, 492 Sonoma Ave., is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays from March through the third week in October.



John Hacku is curator of Santa Rosa's Ripley museum, a monument to a local boy who gained fame.

## Believe it or not, Ripley went to church in his own museum

**SANTA ROSA** — John Hacku wasn't born in Santa Rosa, and he never thought much about Robert Ripley of "Believe it or Not" fame before, but now that he is Santa Rosa's keeper of the Robert Ripley flame, "Believe it or Not" has become his byword.

There are Ripley museums in major cities around the world, but Hacku believes his Ripley museum, tucked away here beneath the trees in a corner of Julliard Park on the edge of downtown, is a Ripley museum that needn't take a back seat to anyone's.

For one thing, it is Ripley's home town's own monument to him and it surely is the only Ripley museum lodged in a building Ripley himself drew and mentioned as a world-class oddity in his newspaper feature.

"As a matter of fact, Robert Ripley himself attended church here when this was Santa Rosa's Baptist Church. "Believe it or not," Hacku said the other day as he showed off the tidy, little, city-owned museum of which he is the part-time curator and only paid employee.

"And of course, you know, this is the famous church Ripley wrote about, the Church of One Tree. All the boards that went into this church's construction came from a single redwood tree felled near Guerneville. Believe it or not."

Hacku, 43, a Connecticut native and 20-year resident of Santa Rosa, a travel guide and teacher when he

### ROADS WEST

By Walt Wiley

isn't working at the museum, admitted the phrase, "Believe it or not," has become a major part of his speech since he signed on at the museum earlier this year after serving as a volunteer for several years.

"It's just that everything you say about this man's life is so incredible you have to add that to the end of whatever you say. I don't know it's true. I believe it's true. You can believe it or not."

As Hacku spoke, he was standing among an array of display cases and exhibits from Ripley's life: a giant rhinoceros horn, blowups of Believe it or Not panels, documents, personal items, photographs, a full-size wax likeness of Ripley seated at his desk.

Ripley was born in Santa Rosa in 1891, 1893, 1894 or 1895, according to which account is believed or not, and he died in New York, officially on May 22, 1949, although there are variations on that as well, Hacku said.

Ripley, the Santa Rosa schoolboy, showed promise as a cartoonist, and he went on to draw sports cartoons, first for a local newspaper, then the San Francisco Examiner, then the New York Post.

It was while he was at the Post that he came up with the idea for the "Believe it or Not" cartoon panel. The

Post published the first of the series on Dec. 19, 1918, and it continues today, drawn by anonymous artists still under Ripley's name, appearing in 350 newspapers.

Once the distinctive feature caught on, Ripley was away for 30 years of almost non-stop travel, visiting 196 countries and amassing a huge collection of oddities and art as well as an almost inexhaustible supply of weird facts.

Hacku flipped on a videotape of old Ripley travel films. There parading across the screen in flickering black-and-white to the accompaniment of a booming-voiced newsreel announcer was one oddity after another that Ripley had uncovered in his travels.

There was an African woman wearing earrings that weighed 10 pounds, a South Pacific man with his teeth all filed to points, a convict in some faraway land whose sentence was to walk about the streets chained to a huge cross. There was even a report from Hell, which turns out to be a small town in Norway.

"Some of this might seem a little commonplace to us today," said Hacku. "But remember, in most cases Ripley was bringing these things to the American public for the first time."

The Santa Rosa Ripley Museum, 121 Sonoma Ave., is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays from March through the third week in October.

John R. Hacku  
Curator  
Ripley Memorial Museum  
Church of One Tree  
492 Sonoma Ave.  
Santa Rosa, CA. 95401

)  
The Community Calendar  
427 Mendocino Ave.  
Santa Rosa, CA. 95401

Hi Folks,

### The Church of One Tree- Robert Ripley Museum, tours 11 A.M.  
to 4 P.M. Wednesday through Sunday with exhibit "The Robert  
Ripley Prints" featuring historic drawings and prints of Bob  
Ripley of "Believe It or Not" fame plus histoic books and  
photos. Santa Rosa/ 492 Sonoma Ave. Exhibit through October 22.  
Information: 576-5233. ###

)  
Bob Ripley was born in Santa Rosa and his Dad helped build  
this historic church in 1873. Please see that this message is  
printed in your calendar. We will have a film soon to show  
in July. If you could run this announcement weekly throughout  
the summer it would be greatly appreciated. I am enclosing  
this year's flyer.

Sincerely,

)  
John R. Hacku  
Curator



CHURCH  
BUILT FROM ONE TREE!  
ALL LUMBER USED WAS CUT FROM A SINGLE REDWOOD TREE  
BAPTIST CHURCH, SANTA ROSA, CALIF.  
MY MOTHER ATTENDED THIS CHURCH



CITY OF

Santa  
Rosa

October 18, 1990

Elizabeth Salmon  
Marketing Director  
Bay Food  
P.O. Box 9877  
Berkeley, CA.  
94709

Dear Elizabeth Salmon:

It has been three months since our discussion and I only now have received final word concerning advertising in your splendid paper. The demographics of our business indicates that our clients are from out of state, Santa Rosa residents, or people visiting from another country. Your idea for Sonoma county is excellent. At this particular time we have decided not to advertise in your paper.

We receive numerous requests and believe that there is a definite need to advertise. Ripley's of Toronto Canada or United Media currently is in control of "Ripley's promotion".

Mr. Robert Young who is currently the person to contact with regards to advertising here at "The Church of One Tree" has turned down your suggestion to advertise at this time.

Our season closes in a few more days and it still has not been determined if we are to have another season in March, (1991).

Sincerely,

John R. Hacku  
Curator



CHURCH  
BUILT FROM ONE TREE!  
LUMBER USED WAS CUT FROM A SINGLE REDWOOD TREE  
Baptist Church, Santa Rosa, Calif  
MY MOTHER ATTENDED THIS CHURCH



CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

October 22, 1990

CHURCH OF ONE TREE  
RIPLEY MEMORIAL MUSEUM  
MONTHLY REPORT- OCTOBER

The season came to a close on Sunday with final tabulations exceeding previous years at the Church of one tree. The success of the season can be attributed to the people of the Park and Recreation Department who helped throughout the year. It could not have been accomplished without the help of those people who tirelessly work to make Santa Rosa truly a city of roses. Thank you each and every one.

Ed Myers from "Believe It Or Not" Ripley's International is expecting someone from the City of Santa Rosa to contact his office in Toronto, Ontario Canada to settle the contract Ripley has with the city. The contract is up for renewal this February. The offices are at 90 Eglinton Avenue East Suite 510, Toronto, Ontario M4P 2Y3. The phone number is 1-416-489-4666. Edward Myers and his secretary Kim Birch have been very helpful this year in supplying information concerning any trivia of the Ripley cartoons. Ripley's Believe It or Not is a division of Jim Pattison Industries Ltd. Ripley International recently opened a new museum in California which displays Buck Helms's (of the earthquake Oakland 880 disaster) car for exhibit. The Buena Park facility had a write-up in the Press Democrat. Some people visited the Church of One Tree thinking that the smashed car was displayed here in Santa Rosa.

The Park at Juilliard looks very immaculate. The rose garden has been weeded and trimmed and the graffiti has been removed from the grounds. The flagpole area is the only place left with graffiti. Park workers explained that it will be taken care of next. The Men's Garden Club has set January 19, 1991 as the date to openly trim the rose garden and place a dormant spray on the roses. Dan Neff recently explained that an experimental spray is being used in the rose garden. The Garden Club was relieved when they discovered that the city was in charge of the Juilliard Park Rose Garden. Many members have suffered illness and setbacks this past summer. January 19, 1991 at 9:30 is the date of the public cutting if it's okay with the Park Department. This has been mentioned to Dan Neff's office.

5824 people of all ages went through the museum this year either individually or with a group. The museum collected \$4449.20 a new record. Lincoln School and The Burbank School have all ready signed up for next season's tour season. The Canine Companions also have signed up for next season. The final figures for this past month are:

Adults	387	Under 8	31	Total	593 people
Youth	24	Groups	58 People		
Seniors	93				\$554.50

October 11, 1990  
Church of One Tree  
492 Sonoma Ave.  
Santa Rosa, CA. 95401

Arthur Penn  
5613 University Way N.E. #C  
Seattle, Washington 98105

Dear Mr. Penn:

Here is the information that you requested concerning the hometown of Robert Ripley. We provide a small giftshop as a convenience to tourists. Robert Ripley is a very interesting personality who attended this church as a boy. It has been recorded that his father helped with the carpentry work on this building and his mother attended this church until her death in 1915. Ripley is the creator of "Believe It Or Not" cartoon series. He had many homes around the United States and his residence is still here in Santa Rosa. His gravesite can be visited and is in "The Oddfellows" section of our rural cemetery here in Santa Rosa, California. I am enclosing a brochure and a history of the building. In 1957 friends of Robert Ripley saved the church from being torn down. The building was cut in half and moved to the site on Juilliard Park across from the Luther Burbank Home and Gardens. If you visit us next season we will open March 1, 1990 for docent led tours.

Ripley had many birthdates. All of these dates are official. The gravesite lists 1890 and so did the United States Census. The city and the federal government records also list various dates. Rip, known to his friends as Roy or Rip celebrated his birthday on Christmas Day. His school teacher here in town really gave him his first start by allowing him to draw in class for his assignments after his father die in 1905 Ripley pitched semi-pro ball and even tried out for the major leagues in New York city. Ripley was given the keys to the city of Santa Rosa in 1932. He also earned his college degree from Iowa Valley College for his daily work in the newspapers. He was one of the highest paid speakers of his day and received many invitations from around the world. If you wish more information don't hesitate to contact the Executive Offices located in Toronto, Ontario Canada. "Believe It Or Not" has museums throughout the world.

Sincerely,

*John R. Hacku*

John R. Hacku  
Curator

P.S. Ripley was first greatly influenced by a meeting with Jack London here in Santa Rosa early in his life.



CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

October 22, 1990

CHURCH OF ONE TREE  
RIPLEY MEMORIAL MUSEUM  
MONTHLY REPORT- OCTOBER

The season came to a close on Sunday with final tabulations exceeding previous years at the Church of one tree. The success of the season can be attributed to the people of the Park and Recreation Department who helped throughout the year. It could not have been accomplished without the help of those people who tirelessly work to make Santa Rosa truly a city of roses. Thank you each and every one.

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Adults 387	Under 8 31	Total 593 people
Youth 24	Groups 3 58 People	\$554.50
Seniors 93		



*Santa Rosa*

## March Newsletter

The Church of One Tree will begin it's new season on March 1, 1991. The newspaper has been informed of the new season with the updated City Council approved new prices. The price of adults will be increased to \$1.50 and the price of children's admission will be .75¢. Senior citizen rates will remain the same. The group price has been changed to \$7.50 per twelve people. The contract with Ripley International has also been renewed thanks to the efforts of the Recreation and Park administration. We are looking forward to a successful season.

Supplies for the new season have been ordered and old lights in the roof of the building have been replaced with new ones. A new front rug which is badly needed is also on order thanks to the efforts of Bob Young. The vandalism to the front door and the fountain incurred during the closed winter months has been corrected. The Juilliard Park looks good for the spring season thanks to the hard work of the Recreation and Park Department.

On March 7, 1991 a tree planting ceremony will be held at 10:00 A.M. in front of the Burbank School and then a tree will be planted in Juilliard Park in celebration of Arbor Day which is also Luther Burbank's birthday. This special event will be photographed by John Hacku Curator of The Church of One Tree for the Luther Burbank Home and Gardens. Hopefully a good showing of the public will provide community support for Recreation and Park activities.

There has been a good early response to the museum opening with groups signing up early for tours. School groups enjoy the historic museum and lunch in the park as part of their field trip experience. This is a rewarding educational service provided by the city of Santa Rosa to all ages. We welcome these visits. School contact and public promotion is on-going throughout the year.

There has been a recent rumor from Ripley International of a movie regarding the life of Robert Ripley. It is still in the early stages and information concerning this project will be communicated as the year progresses. Santa Rosa can be proud of the contributions Bob Ripley made to the world with his famous "Believe It Or Not" cartoon.

During the off-season an interview with Charles Schulz was conducted with regard to Charles M. Schulz and his first cartoon which appeared in a "Believe It Or Not" column in 1937. The cartoon is on display at The Church of One Tree and Snoopy's Gallery in Santa Rosa. Mr. Schulz sent the cartoon into Bob's offices in New York back in 1937 and received \$8 for his efforts. It was about a dog that ate pins, tacks, and razorblades..."Believe It Or Not"... Mr. Schulz claims that it was true. The dog (which looks like an early version of Snoopy) was named Spike. Charles Schulz reported to us that he never met Bob Ripley. Mr. Schultz also said that "Spike could fetch potatoes from the basement and knew when it was nine o'clock on Saturday night and time to go out for a newspaper."

### RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

Recreation Division 415 Steele Lane Santa Rosa California 95403  
Telephone 707-576-5116 or 707-576-5268



CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

MARCH 22, 1991

CHURCH OF ONE TREE  
NEWSLETTER

The Church of One Tree opened it's doors on March 1, 1991. The rainy day opening brought a few people to our museum. Police officers who patrol the park claim that during the very warm and sunny days of February there were tourists at our doors. We are off to our best season in five years as the first fifteen days of statistics indicate. Yes, we had a total of 327 paid visitors thus far. That is an average of 22 people per day during our normally slow month of March.

The wind storm of March 14 snapped the top branches of one of the taller redwood trees in front of the Church on Juilliard Park. The matter was reported and the situation has been cleaned up. Thank you Recreation and Park Department.

John Foster, who did repair the stained glass windows in 1957, dropped by to give a whole new insight to the the stained glass in our building. He is currently working on the Stamford Chapel which was damaged during the 1989 earthquake.

Mark Cohen(self portrait collector of cartoonists) dropped in with an editorial cartoonist from Hungary. Mark has an original self caricature of Bob Ripley (the only one known to exist) in his collection here in Santa Rosa.

Ripley International has reported the opening of two new museums. One will open in Mexico and the other in Korea. The new book about Ripley is due out sometime this year.

The total breakdown for this first 15 days is as follows.

March 1-21, 1991 (15 days)

Adults	180
Youth	41
Seniors	23
Child	44
<u>Group #</u>	<u>55 (4 Groups)</u>
Total	343 people

GROUPS (4)

1-3. Three groups from Canine Companions  
4. Creative Living Class

Admissions	\$353.50
Sales	24.30
Donations	7.80
	Total \$390.60

plea. Gottlieb was any time expected to continue to comment on the case if the case involved other characters of forgery or document talk's seen.

Fire officials on Tuesday offered a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the apprehension of a suspect.

kind of description and get that information to us," said Murphy. "It's not just another grass fire. It's a fire that people can get hurt in, that can cause accidents. People's property can be lost."

until nearly 8 p.m. Firefighters re-scene at 5 p.m. a under control with About 90 firefig

bonded to the  
and had the fire  
an hour.  
writers and two

In other fire news Tuesday, a mobile home was destroyed and a travel trailer damaged in a 3 p.m. fire just outside Cloverdale.

followed a week of window bashing groups, according to the juvenile information that his actions were

Jerry Murphy, an arson investigator with the California Department of Forestry, declined to say how Tuesday's fire at Stage Gulch Road was set. But the similarities between Tuesday's fire and a spate of fires last year, alarmed the department enough to offer the

sometimes we even lose structures," he said.

hand crews battled the flames that charred the hilly terrain where Stage Gulch Road narrows near the county dump, officials said.

The fire drew seven forestry department fire engines, six engines from the Schell-Vista Fire Protection District, two air tankers,

of the blaze is under  
said Cloverdale Ch.,  
started in a mobile  
highway 101 at Church  
ad to a small travel  
tained the damage at

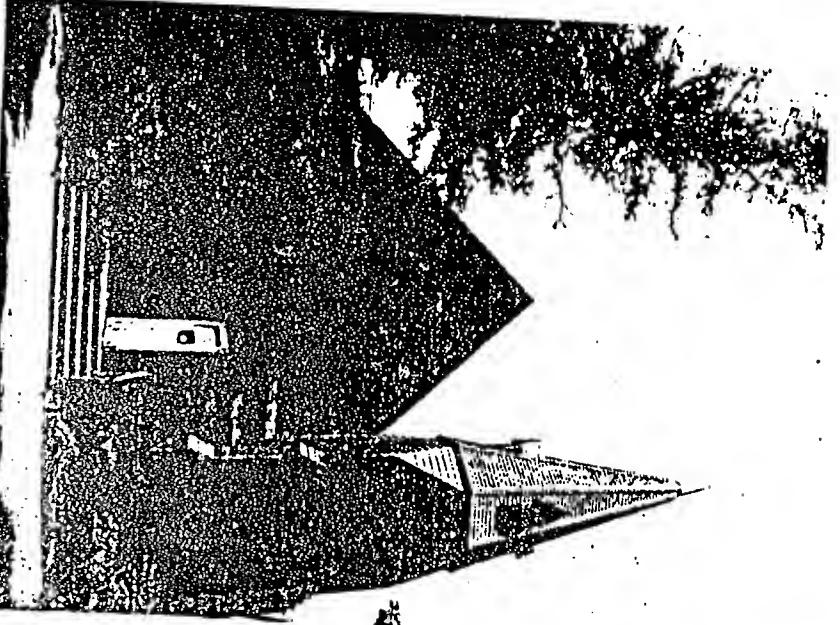
that his actions were to his ATC members said.

SR council considers replanting  
venerable Church of Our Treas-

By CAROL BENNETT

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PRESS DEMOCRATIC FILE 8-1946

"There is a lot of recognition throughout the country that we have the Church of One Tree, much more than people who live here would expect," Mayor Nanci Burton said. City Manager Ken Blackman said people would enjoy a romantic park setting for weddings and receptions. "A large number of people want to be married in parks. This is the type of thing that would be used virtually every weekend year-round," he said. By charging a modest fee, the city could offset much of the remodeling cost, Blackman said.

The council asked for a staff report on how much it would cost to move the 118-year-old building to one of two sites in Juilliard Park. A preliminary estimate placed the figure at

*Santa Rosa City Council members expressed new interest Tuesday in moving the historic Church of One Tree from its obscure location at the edge of Juilliard Park to a more prominent spot in the park, perhaps on Santa Rosa Avenue.*

The council clearly believes the building would receive more visitors and could provide a new note of downtown interest if placed more prominently and remodeled as a

close to \$200,000. The council also asked for the cost of remodeling the church interior and permanently removing the Ripley's Believe It Or Not Exhibit now housed in the building.

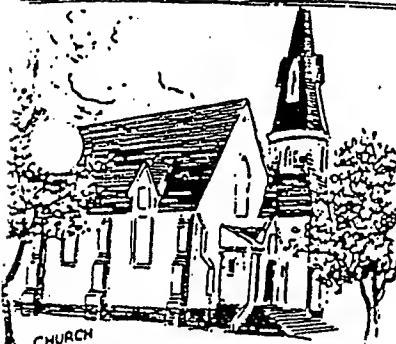
The church was built in 1873 from a single redwood tree 18 feet in diameter, felled near Guerneville. The building was the First Baptist Church at Ross and B streets until 1957, when it was secularized and the property sold to the city for a parking lot.

we have had kindred cases at our health clinic where we have beaten up, a justly angry Hispanic," Trivizo Police Capt. Willard said. "Local law enforcement is very difficult to get to the truth of what is really

## Independent Day event

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**EDNESDAY, J-**  
**ebastopol**  
Fireworks show  
at 8:30 p.m.  
High School  
Clownland  
gins at dusk. Ch-  
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d older a-  
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CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

492 Sonoma Ave. Santa Rosa, CA.  
On Juilliard Estate near Burbank Gardens

(707) 524-5233

(707) 838-8698

July 24, 1992

Sandra Gurvis  
208 Academy Woods Dr.  
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

Dear Sandra:

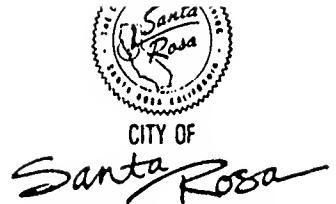
Here is the information and photographs you requested. The Church of One Tree will be 120 years old in 1993. I also should mention that Robert Ripley's 100th birthday celebration will also be in 1993. Here are some brochures and other written material to provide information about this unique museum. You might also like to know that Jeane Dixon (the famed astrologer) claims to have received her crystal ball from the corner of the Burbank Gardens which is in front of the Juilliard Park and Church of One Tree. The building was moved to it's present site in 1957. About half the Church was not saved in the move due to various reasons.

It is important to note that there is strong evidence that Ripley's dad was a carpenter on the Church in 1873. His mom and family attended this church while they lived here in Santa Rosa.

Ripley lived well and had three huge mansions in the United States. He began in Santa Rosa as a poor boy who liked to draw in class. His teacher Francis O'Merey encouraged him to continue in her class. He had to drop out of school to support the family when his dad passed away but later in life was awarded a degree in letters from Dartmouth and Iowa Valley College. He did complete over 55,000 "Believe It Or Not" cartoons all fact over fiction. There have been several corrections over the years (some famous) but 99% of the time the cartoon was accurate. His memorial is inside the museum which is The Church of One Tree.

Yes, feel free to contact me if you need additional information. I wish you well and good luck. I told Ed Meyer Of your project and he was delighted. Ed is the historian for Ripley's "Believe It Or Not". Please let me know if you need more information. The Photos were done on special paper so that they will reproduce well for black and white publication.

Sincerely,  
*John R. Hacku*  
John R. Hacku  
Curator



## Monthly Report August

August 16, 1992

Notice has been given to residents on Sonoma Avenue that the Hogue Construction Company will begin work on underground sewer and water construction from August 17 through October 2.

They will post "NO PARKING" signs along Sonoma Avenue. The Visitor Center and the other museums will be alerted to this street parking change so that they can advise our visitors.

KABC and The Fred and Elmer Show of Los Angeles television filmed a section of Sonoma County and our museum this month. It will be aired in the Los Angeles area in a five part news report this month.

The totals for this month from July 19 through August 16, 1992 are:

6 Groups	92
Adults	358
Youth	127
Senior	192
Child	40

Total 809 people

Year to date 3689 people

Admissions	825.50
Sales	68.75
Donations	47.11

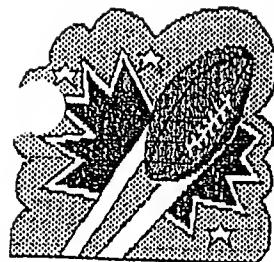
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Total \$941.36

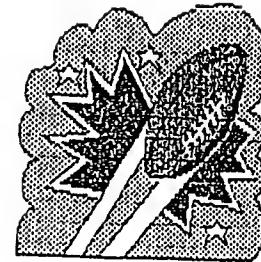
Year to date \$4124.70

Sincerely,

John R. Hacku  
Curator



# JOHN ROBERT HACKU



9433 WELLINGTON CIRCLE  
WINDSOR, CALIFORNIA  
95492

January 25, 1993

Mr. Robert Young  
Park & Recreation Department  
415 Steele Lane  
Santa Rosa, CA. 95403

Dear Mr. Robert Young:

I recently spoke to Mr. Bill Montgomery with regards to the 1993 season at The Church of One Tree. He indicated that the budget for next year was being worked upon and that I should provide you with the necessary figures.

This year's season will run 165 days plus 15 days of needed preparation and cleaning for a total of 180 working days. I have provided cleaning and set up time in the past that will be included in this year's estimate. It has been suggested that Ed O'Leary might contribute some clean-up time this year. I would suggest a total of two hours per week at the Church of One Tree if this does not interfere with his 1000 hour limit. I have also included in the estimate one half hour per day for cleaning and preparation before and after regular operation. This comes to five and one half hours per day. The tourist use of the daily museum demands the daily cleaning. Ed is on board at the Luther Burbank Home & Gardens.

Recap:	165 days at 5½ hours = 907.5 hours (operation)
Cleaning	Plus 15 days at 5 hours = 75 hours (preparation)
Ed O'Leary	<hr/>
33 weeks	<hr/>
2 hours per = 66 hours	Curator      Total      982.5 hours

The Volunteer Center has provided three new names for volunteer work at the museum. I have included a copy of this year's training booklet. We will begin volunteer training this month. This training is not charged to the city. The promotion and display work is also not charged to the city. I will hand in a list of volunteer staff at the beginning of the season. Promotion and historical research are on-going and not charged to the city. The brochure order will be placed this week and the new rug could be installed anytime this month. I will meet again with museumologist Karen Field on Tuesday. Jim Morton will also meet on Tuesday to fix the side door which has swollen shut due to recent heavy rains. If you have any concerns or additions please contact me at 838-8698.

Sincerely,  
*John R. Hacku*  
John R. Hacku  
Curator

THE CHURCH OF ONE TREE  
RIPLEY MEMORIAL MUSEUM

January 28, 1993

Mr. Robert Young  
415 Steele Lane  
Santa Rosa, CA. 95403

Dear Bob,

The vacuum cleaner is fixed at the museum. This cleaner now works well and was repaired without any cost to the City of Santa Rosa. Cleaning and display preparation for the 1993 season has begun. The original figure of 75 hours preparation time is accurate. The contract for the 1993 season needs to be completed for this year. The total of 180 days (preparation time included) is approximately the length of this season.

There are five volunteers this year and all but two have indicated a return to help staff the museum. Ms. Margurita Vaneck, Tim McGee, and others originally volunteered to assist but have other commitments or job responsibilities. They will not be returning. Mary Ann Hacku, Patricia Ross, and Frances Rhodes will assist this year on tours and reception. Eileen Bill has volunteered time to assist in painting the inside of the building near the front of the church which is in dire need. Information sheets on these individuals will be submitted to the Park and Recreation Department before the season begins. Two of these forms are included in this report.

On March 5, 1993 there will be an Arbor Day celebration at Luther Burbank Home and Garden. The museum will have a sign directing folks to that activity during the morning hour. On Saturday March 6, 1993 at 10:30 a.m. there will be a Juilliard Park walk through with Sally Joy to give pertinent information with regards to the trees in the park. We will be directing tourists to this activity before we open our doors that Saturday.

Jim King and Leyton Youngclaus from the Men's Garden Club will provide stakes and identification for the roses in Juilliard Park and the trees. These stakes are wooden and will be put up with no cost to the city. Bob Hornback, famed horticulturist, has agreed to provide a Juilliard Park "walk tour" during the 1993 season. Curator John Hacku is scheduled to speak to the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce at the Luther Burbank Cultural Art Center for "Good Morning Santa Rosa" on April 14, 1993 at 7 a.m. His talk will be about upcoming events for 1993 season at The Church of One Tree/Ripley Memorial Museum. This is the 100th birthday of Bob Ripley and the 120th anniversary of The Church of One Tree.

The Toronto offices were contacted concerning the movie (now set for release in 1994), the new book biography of Bob (set for release in 1995), and a budget for new displays.

) Display monies from the Ripley organization and the city might be discussed for the 1995 budget. At this time the cases and the materials will be displayed with no additional costs to the city of Santa Rosa.

A meeting with Karen Field and Kay Voliva was very informative and helpful. Their concerns and suggestions will be taken into consideration with the knowledge that there is no increase for this year's budget. We are confident that displays will be upgraded and depicted to the best of our ability. Work on this area is ongoing and suggestions are always welcome.

Sincerely,



John R. Hacku  
Curator



CITY OF  
*Santa Rosa*

## Monthly Report

June 23, 1993

The Church of One Tree was the feature of an article by Les Allen this month in the papers around the San Jose area. Future McClatchy news service stories may follow. The Senior Magazine has promised to write an article for the month of July on the Ripley legend. This should boost our attendance in the next few weeks. The Press Democrat has featured our picture in the Sunday paper. Thank you for all the much needed exposure.

The statistics for this period from May 19 through June 19, 1993 are the best ever for this museum in funds collected.

Admissions: \$676.00  
Sales \$ 70.70  
Donations \$ 33.32

Total : \$780.02 Year to date \$2497.67

Adults	294
Youth	71
Seniors	142
Children	33

Total 540 Year to date 2078 people

Attendance compared to previous years at this time:

1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
1374 people	2201 people	2086 people	2021 people	2078 people

Sincerely,

John R. Hacku  
Curator

THE CHURCH BUILT OF ONE TREE

(From the History of the First Baptist Church at the time of the Golden Jubilee in 1902.)

"The Church Built of One Tree" was the headline caption in the great daily papers which startled the Baptist people, then proud of their new church on "B" Street, into the realization that they were the possessors of a very unique and original building soon to be known the world over as "The Church Built of One Tree". That it came to them as a surprise is due to the fact that the idea was entirely the inception of Mr. Rufus Murphy, the millman at Guerneville who furnished the lumber, and the Church knew nothing about it until the building was completed and the announcement made in the papers.

For this reason, some claimed to be incredulous and some even disputed it. Only a few years before the present pastor came upon the field a refutation of the story was printed in the Pacific Baptist. But the story went abroad, Eastern magazines and papers published cuts and descriptions and gave it a wide circulation. Yet a few were still persistent in their disbelief. The writer, shortly after his settlement here began an investigation of the facts and found them to be substantially correct, as published.

T. J. Butts, a very reputable attorney of this city, made an affidavit that he was at the time of the building of said church in the employ of the late Rufus Murphy, and that he knew all the facts concerning the order of the lumber placed by the church and the filling of the same at Mr. Murphy's direction. Mr. Butts' affidavit, which is published under this head, is corroborated by other employees in the mill and old settlers in Guerneville.

One Sunday morning a few years since the affidavit was read from the pulpit, the testimony was accepted by the most skeptical and today no one doubts or disputes the correctness of this statement, "The Church Built of One Tree". So it stands today the only church in the world that can make such a statement. We make an exception, however, of the floor, which is pine.

The tree grew near Guerneville in Sonoma County, California, and when sawed, yielded 78,000 feet of lumber.

The Church is Gothic in style, finished with massive buttresses on the outside and heavy beams on the inside. The main auditorium is 60 x 37 with a seating capacity of 300. The parlor is 30 x 20, the pastor's study is 20 x 16. The tower on the southwest corner is 70 feet high.

The congregation which worshiped in this edifice approximated 500, and is the oldest organization in the city, having been organized in 1852.

The church has been moved from its original location to Juilliard Park.

# GAYE LeBARON'S NOTEBOOK



## Whither goest thou, old church?

**N**ews of an impending relocation for the Church Built from One Tree has brought us several phone calls from people suggesting that it be hauled back the way it came to Seventh Street to nestle up against the Old Post Office building that is now the Sonoma County Museum.

If the City Council thinks that's a good idea, they can save us \$20,000 — just like that. That was the amount appropriated by the council for another of those wonderful "studies" to decide where the former Baptist Church built from the lumber of one redwood tree should be placed once it leaves the Ellis Street address on the fringe of Juilliard Park where it has served as a display case for Robert Ripley memorabilia. The tie-in with Ripley comes from the fact it was Ripley's "Believe It or Not" cartoon that made the church world famous.

It seems to me the head of the park department, a couple of councilmen and the city manager should be able to sit down and figure out the answers to essential questions for the cost of two pots of coffee and a dozen doughnuts. But maybe, if the council is bent on spending that money, the people who suggested moving it to the museum site, which is on the edge of a historic neighborhood already, can call it a reward and split it.

Museum Director John Lofgren is very serious about encouraging the city to bring the church next door. "We'd have opportunities to work out some really exciting programs," he said, adding that the museum's board of directors is quite excited at the prospect.

• • •

**NICK MIROV**, an eighth grader at Pomolita Middle School in Ukiah, made it to the final 100 in the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. He was knocked out Thursday morning after three rounds by the word "vallecula," meaning "a groove or furrow in a plant or animal structure, as the depression between the epiglottis and the base of the tongue."

Nick was philosophical about the defeat. "I knew I wasn't going far when they started throwing words like that at us," he told a reporter.

• • •

**NEWS OF** the death of Congressman Claude Pepper proved more startling than you might think to several Santa Rosans who saw the headline saying "Pepper Dead" and thought — well, you know what they thought. One woman, very concerned, called to find out if our Pepper, who fills the role of town character for Santa Rosa (or did when the town was smaller and had fewer of them), is OK. Answer: she's just fine. I hear from her regularly. She's still living alone in an apartment on College Avenue and I saw her just last

# Wedding bells soon may ring at SR's Juilliard Park

## Ripley museum eyed for chapel

ROBERT DIGITALE  
Staff writer

Attention, brides and grooms. If you're looking for a spot to celebrate your nuptials, consider a wedding in the park.

Juilliard Park, that is. Or if you in wait a while, how about saying our vows in Santa Rosa's Church built from One Tree?

Santa Rosa Recreation and Parks officials are setting aside an area for weddings next year in Juilliard Park, near downtown Santa Rosa. The officials also are thinking of turning the Church Built on One Tree into a wedding chapel and community room.

The city will send out details in January Leisure Guide on how to reserve the wedding site in the park.

"We imagine people will be taking advantage of it for spring, if there is interest," said Bill Montgomery, deputy director of parks. A \$100 permit will reserve an area that can serve a wedding of 100 people. Couples also can reserve a picnic area for receptions for \$11.

There is nothing now to prohibit people from tying the knot in a

city park. But officials said they proposed setting up a special section for weddings after receiving a number of requests from interested parties.

"This came about just from all the phone calls we were getting," said Eric Jorgeson, the city's recreation superintendent.

Juilliard Park sits across Santa Rosa Avenue from the Luther Burbank Home and Gardens. The church, now home to the Ripley Museum, sits next to the park on Sonoma Avenue.

The park was founded in 1931, when the Juilliard family donated nine acres of land to the city. The land had contained their orchard, the first in Santa Rosa, and home since the 1870s. It features mature trees and manicured shrubs, expansive lawns and an arched, stone bridge. However, in recent years the park has received relatively few visitors, perhaps due to its reputation as a hangout for transients.

"Our feeling is, the way you get over reputations or even reality is to increase the use of that park," Montgomery said.

While park weddings may begin soon, wedding chapel plans remain uncertain. Officials have talked for years about increasing the public's use of the former church — originally located on B Street. The structure was built in 1873 from a

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## Marriage license increases to \$64

By TOM CHORNEAU  
Staff writer

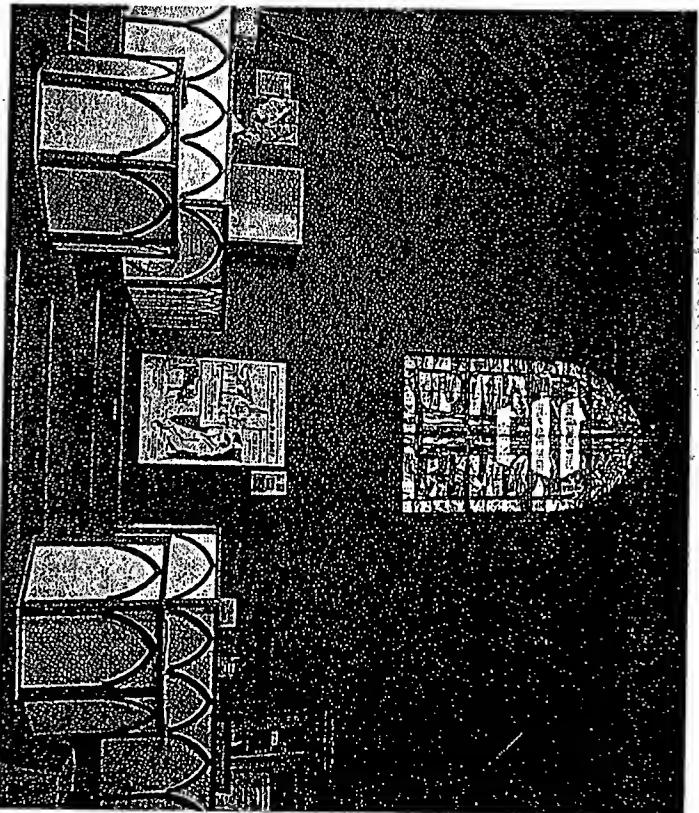
The price of getting a marriage license in Sonoma County will go up \$4 beginning Jan. 1, the result of changes in state law.

Licenses taken out through Friday will cost \$60. But beginning next week, the document will go up to \$64, according to the County Clerk's office.

A confidential marriage license, which is not recorded as part of the public record, also will go up \$4, from \$69 to \$73. Certified copies of licenses will cost \$13.

"The county Board of Supervisors isn't doing this," said Karin Herring, chief deputy clerk. "This is all the result of the state changing the code. We don't get the extra money either, all of it will go directly to the state."

The clerk's office also will begin charging property owners \$84, up from \$80, for an eviction notice beginning Feb. 1.



A wax figure of Robert Ripley sits in front of Santa Rosa's Church Built from One Tree, which soon may become a community wedding chapel.

JEFF KAN/LEE/PRESS DEMOCRAT

At one time officials even proposed moving the building from Sonoma Avenue to Santa Rosa

Avenue so it would gain greater exposure.

See Wedding, back page



7:28 a.m.  
4:58 p.m.



In. 19

Barstow	65/37	.02	Sacramento	57/36	.05
Big Bear	44/30	.07	Salinas	68/43	.05
Bishop	58/22		San Diego	60/55	
Blythe	68/50		San Gabriel	m	
Catalina	60/51		San Francisco	58/44	.03
Concord	58/41	.02	S.F. airport	57/44	.08
Eureka	59/39		San Jose	57/40	.11
Fresno	59/40		San Luis Obispo	67/41	
Lancaster	62/37		San Rafael	57/38	
Livermore	59/35		Santa Ana	m	
Long Beach	63/49		Santa Barbara	m	.41
Los Angeles	89/65		Santa Cruz	65/42	
L.A. airport	67/63		Santa Maria	70/41	
Marysville	60/40		Santa Monica	69/48	
Monterey	63/48		Stockton	58/37	.05
Needles	67/48		Tahoe Valley	46/19	
Newport Beach	63/52		Vallejo	58/40	.03
Oakland	56/46	.04	Yosemite Vly	51/34	
Palm Springs	70/43	.06	m-Missing		

WATER					
LAKE SONOMA: Storage: 207,035 acre-foot; capacity: 374,803. Water supply pool, 84.5%. Elevation: 435.83 ft. Release: 123 cfs.					
LAKE MENDOCINO: Storage: 68,423 acre-foot; capacity: 117,232. Water supply pool, 98.8%. Elevation: 737.02 ft. Release: 162 cfs.					
LAKE PILLSBURY: Storage: 22,839 acre-foot; capacity: 81,159. Water supply pool, 20.1% Elevation: 1,793.68 ft. Release: 233 cfs.					
RUSSIAN RIVER: At Hacienda Bridge: 4.10 ft.; 810 cfs.					

Figures from Sonoma County Water Agency Operations Department.

lost 1,000 people exchanged Christmas trees for seedlings last year. Mulch from the old trees was used for landscaping at the Guestouse Museum.

The exchange is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 8 at an empty lot on the corner of Main and Pine streets in Fort Bragg, across from the Mendocino Coast Brewing Co. City volunteers collect the trees, Georgia-Pacific Corp. donates the seedlings, and Pacific Gas & Electric provides a machine to grind the trees into mulch.

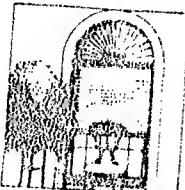
#### In Lake County

In Lake County, Christmas trees will be dropped off beginning Sunday at the county transfer station in Layport, 910 Bevins Court, or at the county landfill in Clearlake, 1015 Davis Ave. The trees will be chipped and used for landscaping ground cover.

Staff writers Tobias Young and Larry Callahan contributed to this story.

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# Wedding

*Continued from Page B1*

Believe It or Not creator Robert Ripley, is closed from late October to April. Annually it draws a mere 5,000 visitors — compared with about 30,000 at the Luther Burbank Home and Gardens. One reason for the small attendance is the Ripley's Believe It or Not corporation has one of its 20 museums just down the road at San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf.

"Most people, unless they're a diehard fan, aren't going to go to both," said Edward Meyer, Ripley's vice president of exhibits.

Meyer said Ripley's officials would be saddened if the Santa Rosa museum closed, but they would understand the city's desire to better use the building. And the proposal makes some sense.

"It's a beautiful church," said

Meyer, who has twice visited the Santa Rosa museum. "It should be used as a church. A wedding chapel's a nice idea."

Even so, city staff members say they are moving slowly on their plans to turn the building into a chapel. This September they garnered support from the City Council to explore the idea. But officials still are seeking information on issues related to fire safety, parking, handicapped access, structural changes and building codes. The city may ask the National Register of Historic Places to list the building, thus easing building regulations.

In a memo, Recreation and Parks Director Charles Rust said his staff was considering keeping a small Ripley memorial in the lobby of the church building. But Jorge-son said the city initially might try to operate the museum and make it available to weddings.

He acknowledged not all brides might like to get married in a building whose exhibits feature a stuffed Siamese twin calf or a fish with fur, to name two.

Jann Hall is a lifelong Santa Rosan who took part in a wedding in the Church Built from One Tree in the late 1950s, when the building was still on B Street. Now a certified wedding consultant, Hall recently toured the building. Her conclusion? With certain modifications, the building could find plenty of use for weddings.

"I get asked all the time, 'Do you know a quaint, little chapel?'" she said.

Her biggest criticism concerns the building's exterior, now painted "barn red." Old photographs show the building white with a blue roof.

"Why not make it as realistic as it used to be?" she asked.

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